



ANTILLEN REVIEW

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The nation on trial

**No headway on
defence question**

**Paradise Village
to serve many ends**

**Offshore business
A progress report**

**Discrimination
against women**

**Synagogue building
250 years old**

**Handcraft:
industry of growing
importance**



photo Roger Snow

**Oldest Antillean airline:
a remarkable success**

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FROM THE EDITOR

News has not been encouraging lately. Reviewing recent developments one is tempted to write in somber tones. Most government services seem in an even worse shape than suspected. Problems facing our national carrier ALM are increasing rather than the reverse. The organizational infrastructure of the country is clearly in a state of malaise.

But an analysis should take into account the historical perspective. Two years ago the country voted massively for a clean and pragmatic approach. People realised that the system of political favours was ruining the country. Now we are beginning to discover the true and disastrous implications of that system. Now too, we are beginning to realize how much pain it will cost to reorganize. And this realization has come to us, because the work of cleaning up has begun. Our present problems were

created years ago. They are now seen in their real magnitude, because the first steps toward a healthier situation have been set. Such steps always involve diagnosis and that in turn reveals the real nature of the disease. It is therefore very much the question whether we should evaluate the present situation in too negative terms.

To continue the process of surgery is the challenge facing the country. The politicians in power will have to muster a lot of courage. The opposition will be tested on its ability to fair play. And all of us will have to face the question whether it is right to let a few pay the bill all of society is to blame for. The nation is indeed on trial, but as may be deducted from the general content of this issue of Antillen Review, there is plenty of reason to look toward the future with confidence.

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Oldest airline in the Netherlands Antilles

A remarkable success



Windward Island Airways International (WIA), the first and oldest Antillean airline, is to celebrate its 20th anniversary on the 24th of August of this year. An occasion worth marking. For while many airlines find themselves in deep trouble, small but dapper WINAIR has been making a handsome profit for several successive years. Sound management and a motivated staff are the keys to this success story, which should not only be told in terms of finance but also of excellent and reliable service.

Figures

Based on Sint Maarten WINAIR is presently flying with three aircraft to seven destinations: St. Eustatius, Saba, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Thomas, St. Barths and Anguilla. Employing a staff of 45, the small company looks extremely sound. The annual turnover rose during the past five years from NAf. 947,200.— to NAf. 3,490,100.— The number of transported passengers went up during that same period from 31,092 to 86,000. Income from cargo transport and charter flights increased with almost 400%.

Most important of all: although the profit is derived to a certain extent from services to third parties,

the airline-division itself is well into the black figures!

History

The debut of WINAIR was modest. In June 1961 three men met in the downstairs bar of a building, which is now the Windward Islands Bank just off Frontstreet in St. Maarten, to discuss the possibility of an airline to connect the three Antillean Windward Islands. Mr. G. Greaux, H. E. Ledee and N. C. Wathey wasted little time and on August the 24th of the same year the company was officially established. The young airline started the first domestic scheduled aerservice early in 1962. Using a 4 seater Piper Apache it connected St. Maarten and St.

Eustatius. When in 1963 the airfield of Saba was inaugurated with a 1200 feet long runway, the company proceeded to purchase a STOL type aircraft (STOL: Short Take-Off and Land). A Dornier 28 (7 seats) was bought in Germany and flown over to St. Maarten. Soon afterwards a second Piper Apache was added to the fleet.

In 1965 WINAIR inaugurated routes to St. Kitts, Anguilla, St. Barths and Guadeloupe. Again it was necessary to enlarge the fleet and a Beechcraft B50 Bonanza was acquired. In the following years the Apaches were sold and two Twin Otters bought. Although the beginning of the tourism boom and the increase of domestic demand kept the company quite busy, WINAIR up till 1971 was a ▶

photo Roger Snow



Approaching Saba-strip.

very small operation employing no more than 20 employees.

Crisis

During the following three years the airline expanded rapidly and headed at the same speed towards almost complete disaster. In 1971 the name of the company acquired the addition "International" making it possible to apply for landing rights in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 1972 President Nixon approved CAB decisions allowing WINAIR to start scheduled flights between St. Maarten and San Juan and operate charters to St. Thomas and St. Croix. In the same year two FH-227's (the American version of the well-known Fokker Friendship) were leased from Allegheny Airlines and a new Beechcraft Bonanza bought. With a fair number of added destinations and a fleet consisting of two FH-227's, two Twin Otters, two Beech Craft Twin Bonanza's and one Britten Norman Islander (total capacity 138) WINAIR was becoming an important scheduled regional airline. But this seemingly promising development proved fatal. Miscalculations, great losses on the San Juan route, maintaining a relatively large fleet and a staff of over 60 brought the once flourishing company to the brink of bankruptcy. In 1974 the airline had to inform the Government of the Netherlands Antilles that financial problems would soon force it to close down. Even re-

turning the two FH-227's to Allegheny Airlines and terminating several routes did not create the necessary breathing space. The company had clearly overextended itself.

New start

The national Government had little choice. It simply could not allow the air connection between the Antillean Windward Islands to be closed down. WINAIR was bought lock, stock and barrel. The Government next requested ALM to manage WINAIR and mr. C. O. Yrausquin, president of the national carrier, entrusted the daily management of the disarrayed airline to mr. R. M. Volgers. He could hardly have made a better choice. Within a year all round

experienced Volgers had the company back on its feet. From then on WINAIR became profitable again. Having worked in almost all conceivable departments of the airline business (with KLM and ALM), Volgers was to be seen everywhere advising, stimulating and reorganizing. His secret: "live up to your commitments under all circumstances". The constant application of this rule gave WINAIR a reputation of reliability both with regard to its regular and charter flights. As a result business picked up rapidly. When in 1979 the Labour Union made an unfair demand and 26 employees went on strike, Volgers acted quickly. The morning the employees failed to show up at work, they were fired. The evening papers of that same day already carried adds asking for new personnel. Two subsequent court cases were won by the company. In the meantime management and the remaining staff kept the airline running at its accustomed level of performance. The 26 employees were eventually replaced by 14 others. WINAIR had weathered yet another storm.

Schedules

As business grew a new carefully planned process of expansion was started. In 1977 the airline was flying to five destinations: the three Dutch Windwards, St. Barths and St. Kitts. First of all the number of flights to these destinations ▶

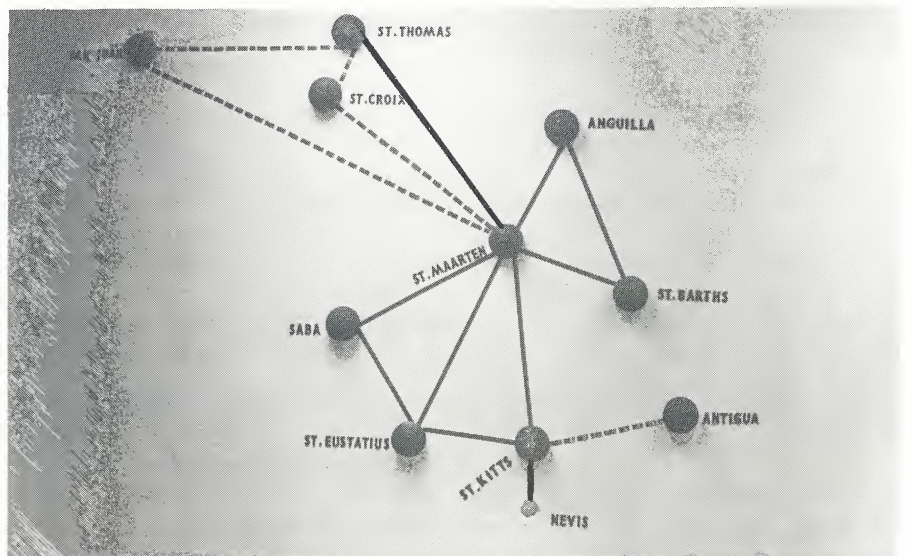


photo Roger Snow

was stepped up gradually. Today WINAIR connects St. Maarten with St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Barths three times daily. The route St. Maarten—St. Kitts is flown 22 times weekly. In 1978, after four years of interruption, Anguilla was added to the network again. At this moment three regular flights are maintained daily. Last year the company started with daily flights to St. Thomas. Occupancy rates surpassed expectations. In fact this route contributed considerably to the increase in last year's turnover.

Regular scheduled flights to Nevis were started last June. Already the figures look very promising. Nevis is served 4 times a week.

The latest available figures show that WINAIR can boast a 51.7 occupancy rate for its combined flights on a yearly basis.

Freight

All of the above mentioned scheduled routes are flown with two Twin Otters, equipped with PT6-27 engines, which add considerably to the safety of the aircraft. The third plane, a Britten Norman Islander, functions as standby (except for Saba) and is normally used for cargo transport. Income from this source went up almost 40% during 1980/81. Regular customers are the fishing industries. In order to transport this rather smelly type of cargo and still keep the Islander suitable for passenger transport the company resorted to an ingenious device. A tarpaulin is fixed above the seats in order to prevent leakage from the packages. Within ten minutes after arrival from a cargo-flight the plane can be ready again for passenger transport. Freight transport is a still expanding department of the airline. On July the 1st a new route was inaugurated between St. Maarten and Guadeloupe twice weekly. An interesting decision was WINAIR's recent lowering of fares for the transport of vegetables and fruits from Saba and St. Eustatius to St. Maarten. Explained general manager Robbert Volgers: "we like to



Rob Volgers.

contribute to the development projects in this field. I'm convinced that St. Maarten's demand could in the future be met by the two smaller islands".

Charters

In spite of the relative smallness of the fleet WINAIR still manages to fulfill a fair number of charter requests. Ten percent of the company's income in 1980/81 was earned by rendering such services. The success of the charter business depends largely on advertising and reliability. Says the general manager: "we take everything we can get. Here again it is vital that you live up to your commitments. Last year we secured a contract with a Swiss travel agent and transported 60 tourists from San Juan to several islands in the Caribbean.

This year they have approached us again and in September we will fly 80 of their clients around".

Obviously WINAIR's logistics department is in very good shape.

Agent

The island government of St. Maarten has given exclusive rights to handle foreign companies at Juliana Airport to an American company. The permit of Winair, the carrier of the Windward Islands, to handle other carriers at Juliana Airport is limited to the handling of KLM and ALM. Since KLM discontinued their daily services from New York some years ago and ALM gradually reduced the number of flights into St. Maarten, this important form of

income for Winair, which company has the possibility and personnel trained and qualified in Europe to handle this type of aircraft, has decreased considerably.

Future

The only answer to the ever rising costs of the airline is to enlarge production. Several scheduled routes are doing so well that an increase of flights is being considered. This may be the case with the connections between St. Maarten, St. Thomas, Nevis and Anguilla.

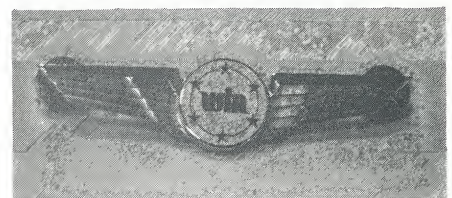
An application has been submitted to acquire landing rights on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. As Tortola is supporting the request, it is expected that the United Kingdom will grant permission.

The airline also hopes to increase its charter activities. Permission to fly charters to Tortola and Montserrat has been granted, but no use has as yet been made of these possibilities.

Although there is still room for expansion without necessarily having to enlarge the fleet, the management of WINAIR is well aware of the limits of growth. "When we have realised our present plans, we will have to stop", mr. Volgers declares.

Future plans with regard to the fleet, which is flown by 5 captains and 2 co-pilots, involve the replacement of the Britten Norman Islander and the possible acquisition of a third Twin Otter.

While national carrier ALM is facing grave financial problems and seemingly has little future to look forward to, WINAIR's story presents a bright spot in the country's airline history. Celebrating its 20th anniversary it has every reason to look ahead with confidence. ■





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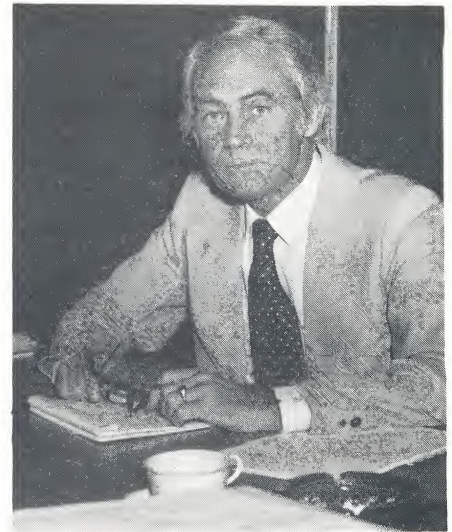
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The nation on trial

Reflections by Theo Tijssen

INTERVIEW



Last fall mr. Th. G. M. Tijssen, managing director of the Bonaire Petroleum Corporation N.V., conducted talks concerning the re-financing of his company. The amount involved was US\$ 32 million. "I expected some hard questioning on the stability of the country and went thoroughly prepared. But not one single question on that score was raised. One might call it: an implicit motion of trust in the Netherlands Antilles".

But now nine months later Theo Tijssen looks worried. He ticks off: "ALM, the Central Bank, the Pension Fund, the Department of Housing and almost every section of the Civil Service suffers from organizational disarray. It will take years to set order to our national house. Close and responsible cooperation between labour, management and the government are what we need most of all and . . . fast!"

BOPEC

The one time director of the country's economic and social affairs department knows what he is talking about. A member of the "Gemengde Commissie", a body which advises the government on long term economic and social planning, he is very well informed. Moreover he is backed up by a healthy and sound enterprise. BOPEC, a transshipment company for oil, is doing satisfactorily. In spite of the uncertain internatio-

nal market the company closed its financial year 1980/81 on June the 30th with encouraging figures. Tijssen (53) declines to give exact details. He does announce new investments in the Bonairean plant, however, of US\$ 6 to 8 million, implying that BOPEC is there to stay after its tax-holiday ends next year. Reassuring news for the small island. Employing a staff of 160, 96% of which is local, the company contributes in no small measure to Bonaire's economy. The in-depth investments are needed to keep BOPEC abreast of developments. The growing importance of the South American oil-fields implies that heavier crudes will have to be dealt with. This in turn asks for new equipment. Moreover BOPEC wishes to diversify its operation by creating the facilities for transshipping oil-products.

"Long term planning", Tijssen declares, "is essential although the uncertain market, caused by the conservation policy of the USA, forced us to live on a day to day basis during the past two years". BOPEC was fortunate to attract Ecuador as a client. All of the oil sales east of Panama of this South American country are handled through BOPEC's terminal, which means an average storage of 3-4 million barrels. BOPEC's total capacity is 9 1/2 million barrels.

These positive developments enabled Tijssen to arrange a restructuring of the company's financial backing.

International confidence in his company and the stability of the country were of great help. But reviewing the national developments since then, Tijssen is seriously worried with regard to the latter.

Productivity

"I have great appreciation for the present government, but their position must be most frustrating. Every department that has been screened during the past months appears to be in bad shape. No government can adequately attend to its first task of policy-making and long term planning on a basis like that. To shape up the civil services will take years. On top of that, politicians are mesmerized by the Round Table Conference and the political issue of decentralization. But no such reorganization of the civil services is possible while they are in such a disarray. Decentralization for the sake of decentralization is a most irresponsible approach. A starting point for the RTC ought to be: how to upgrade the country's internal organization and services. And this applies both to the national and insular bodies. The backbone of the nation is, if not broken, in a very bad shape. As a result economic and social planning reports are gathering dust. And this while new opportunities present themselves to the Antilles. Both the USA and Europe are shifting away from the demand-▶

theory approach to their economies. More accent is placed on investment climate and productivity. This opens up very real possibilities for countries like ours. Favourable investment facilities, however, should be accompanied by a leveling up of productivity”.

Unions

With regard to his last observation, Tijssen wishes to emphasize the important role the trade-unions have to play. To improve the level of productivity in order to attract new industries and create more employment, is one of the first tasks the unions should attend to.

Unfortunately many of their well meaning leaders do not seem to have enough authority with their members. Tijssen pleads for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary research centre by the combined trade-unions. Now that the Bureau of Statistics has been brought up to par and national income accounts are available, it ought to be possible to arrive at a national policy in the context of which individual collective labour agreements should be concluded. The findings of such

a research centre would give union leaders a authoritative backing when dealing with their members.

Insurance

Mr. Tijssen realizes that shaping up the country will lead to an initial rise of unemployment. The government and several of the government-owned companies will have to be cut down to size. He believes we will have to create some kind of social insurance in order to allow people a rightful measure of self-esteem and to be able to do the necessary surgery. And in connection to this he is also convinced that we can no longer put off tackling the pressing problem of youth-unemployment. The idea of the Antillean Development Brigade, allowing young people to receive a training and contribute to the development of the country, should be revived.

ALM

Reviewing the nation's situation it is inevitable that the present problems of our national airline ALM come up during the interview.

Mr. Tijssen is afraid that solutions are being sought in the wrong direction. The creation of a new company to take care of the inter-insular flights, he is convinced, will take the heart out of ALM. As an international airline the company is too small and has too little power to wield to stand up against the big brothers. Its *raison d'être* should be maintaining the connections between the islands.

Tijssen compares the situation at ALM with New York's problems in 1975.

The city escaped bankruptcy only because industry, unions and government joined forces. What is being tried now looks like very short term policy with only one aim: to circumvent the unions. He is of opinion that a new management ought to be appointed. The unions should be aware that continuing in their present way — obstructing a real reorganization — will soon finish the ALM altogether.

Mr. Tijssen feels that like ALM the nation should wake up and pull itself together. ■

BOPEC.

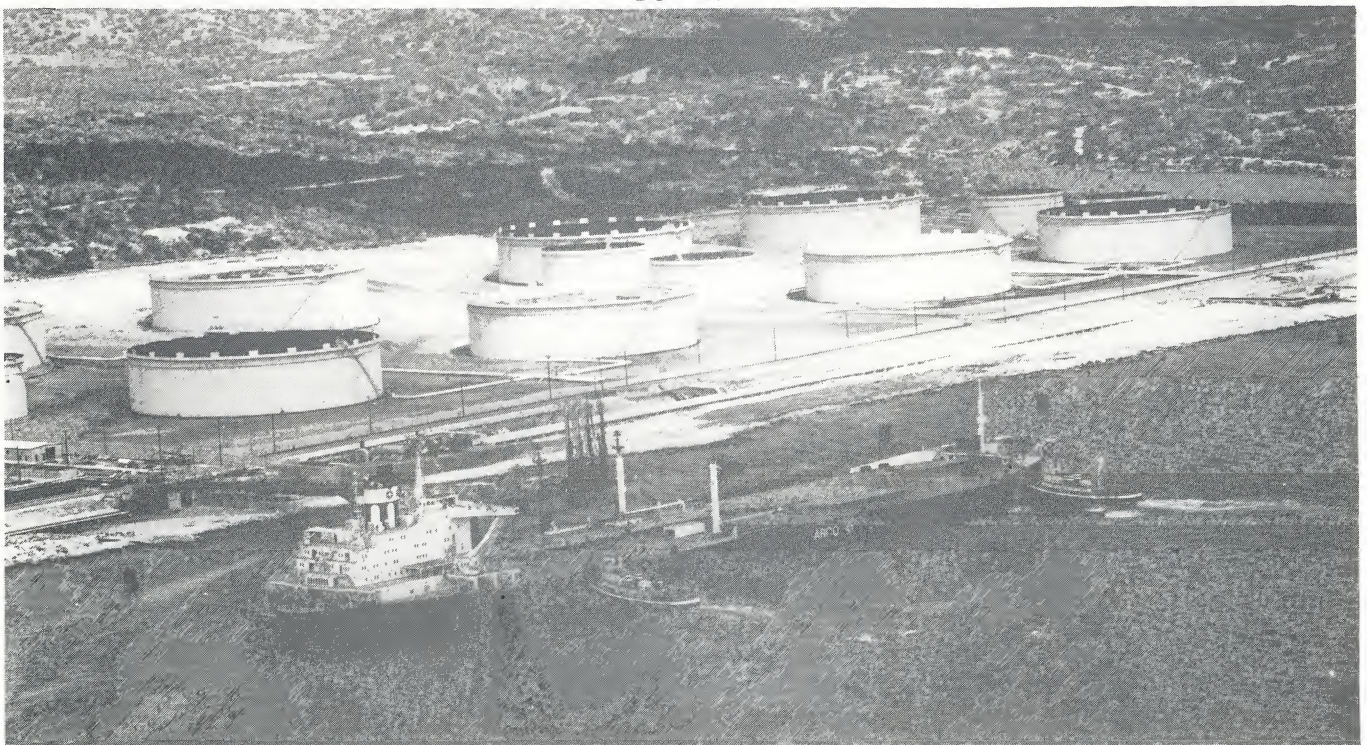


photo Hart's Camera

With 2nd RTC coming up

No headway on defence question

Unless an acceptable solution is found with regard to external defence no viable future can be expected for the Antilles either as a whole or for any of the islands individually. Their highly vulnerable position caused by the islands' smallness and the distance between them, make a solid defence arrangement an absolute necessity for survival. Recent developments in the Caribbean prove this beyond doubt.

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Condition

The vital importance of the defence question in preparing for independence is denied by no one. All parties also agree that the Antilles themselves will never be able to guard their integrity in an adequate manner. The country nor the islands individually have the means for such an undertaking. But there is no difference of opinion either that a substantial Antillean contribution will have to be made, whatever solution is found. In fact Holland, which is now taking care of external defence, conditioned its willingness to consider a prolonged military presence after the present relationship has been terminated, on the visible proof of an Antillean effort to build up a modest corps able to take charge of internal security, including the capacity to cope with riots, terrorism, smuggling and to carry out coastguard tasks.

With the second Round Table Conference coming up in September next all steps towards the realization of such an effort have failed. Caught between the stipulations of the constitution in force (Statuut) and the opposition's fear of political abuse, also Aruba has made no headway.

Objection

Initial plans and preparations to set up an Antillean Defence Corps (AVG) were blocked by Aruba. In accordance with its independence drive and regardless of what ties might bind it in the future to the other islands, Aruba could not agree to the formation of a centralised military body. The implied possibility of "foreign" (read: Cu-

raçolene) presence on Aruban soil was and is unacceptable to most of its inhabitants. Although a small office had been set up, a Dutch advisor appointed and complete blue-prints drawn up, the project came to nought.

Alternative

Aruba next set to work to present a decentralised alternative. A committee of military and legal experts was installed. Guiding principle for their deliberations was the politicians' desire to arrive eventually at some kind of Aruban "Gendarmerie".

No definition of that concept has yet been given, but an integration of military and police tasks is ►

VKC in action.



clearly intended. As a preparatory step toward such a goal the committee suggested the creation of a volunteer organization able to assist both the police and the military in keeping law and order. On the 30th of March last a blueprint was presented to the Island Government. The committee had chosen to copy almost literally the articles of the Curaçao Volunteer Corps (VKC), an organisation which was established soon after the Urbina incident (1929) – see pag. 31.

Command

Early April the articles of what was to be called the "Cuerpo pa Asistencia Voluntario di Aruba" (CAVA) were discussed by the Aruban Island Council. From the outset of the debate two serious problems presented themselves. The above mentioned committee had opted for the association model. The opposition rightly pointed out that this might easily lead to undesirable political

meddling. Clearly afraid of possible abuse by Aruba's leading party (MEP) it forgot to mention that whatever model is chosen, the danger of political abuse remains. In particular in a small scale situation like Aruba's. A fact which was realised by mr. H. G. Raven when he was entrusted with the command of the Curaçao Volunteer Corps ten years ago. He bluntly informed the Prime-Minister that he did not intend to call together the members of the association ever and would not tolerate any kind of political pressure, take it or leave it! The Prime-Minister took it, fully aware of mr. Raven's impeccable character. And true enough the commander managed to steer his corps free from all political influence. The problem raised by Aruba's opposition still stands, however, for men like mr. Raven are rare indeed.

Shelved

A second objection was raised by Aruba's ruling party itself. The

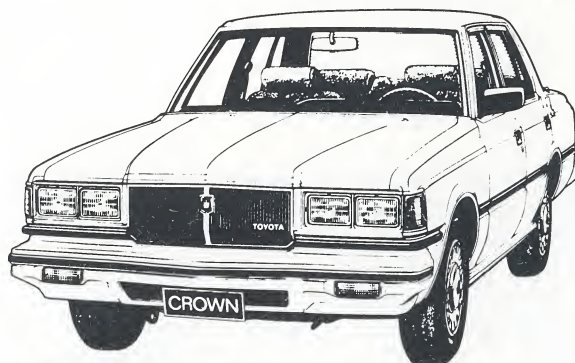
proposed articles had of necessity to comply with the constitution in force, which places any such corps under the ultimate authority of the Central Government. Although a careful reading of the articles shows that no undue influence needs to be feared, fiercely independence prone Arubans protested sharply. As a result the proposal was shelved for the time being. It is expected that Aruba will try to bring about a change of legal stipulations so that the Island's Lieutenant Governor will be entrusted with what is now legally the prerogative of the Prime-Minister. Few believe this to be constitutionally possible.

The upshot is that no results have yet been booked with regard to the Antillean obligation to at least start with taking some responsibility concerning defence matters. A sorry state of affairs, which offers Holland yet another power lever at the Round Table Conference. ■

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ALM and tourism

A view from Aruba

by H. Timmer



Both the Aruban Government and business world are deeply concerned about the precarious financial position of our national airline ALM. All agree that ALM should receive proper help in order to survive. But at the same time there is a general consensus that ALM will only be an asset to Aruba's tourist oriented economy, if it can offer its services at fares equal to or lower than competing foreign airlines.

Surgery

To maintain the connections between the islands of the Netherlands Antilles and with the country's most important tourist-market, the USA, a national carrier is a must. Aruba needs the guarantee of frequent flights at strategic hours and at competitive fares. For this vital service it would be risky to depend solely on foreign carriers. Therefore everybody agrees that ALM must stay. But some thorough surgery will have to be performed to make the company healthy again. ALM is being plagued by inefficiency, the effects of Parkinson's law and mistakes in planning, marketing and management. Moreover the company has to deal with six labour unions. The only shareholder, the Government, resists layoffs or at least seems to have great difficulty with facing the reality of having to trim down the company to size.

ALM has to learn to live with

competition. If competing airlines introduce promotional fares to test out the market and see if growth potential is there, ALM will have to follow and lower its fares also. This may force the government to subsidize ALM. In Aruba everyone agrees that such subsidies are justified.

In order to prevent ALM from going bankrupt the government will have to refinance the heavy losses incurred during recent years. But this help should be combined with a proper screening of the complete operation. Not only the marketing outlook is important for ALM's future, but also the transformation of the company into a lean, aggressive, efficient and well-run enterprise. Begging for protection against aggressive marketing by competing foreign airlines should not be necessary. ALM should be able to answer such campaigns with its own inventiveness and — assisted by the government — promotional fares.

Protest

The recent panic caused by Eastern's introduction of a promotional fare of US\$ 199,— on the Miami — Aruba — Curaçao route shows that ALM is not up to par. The company's present weak position makes this understandable but no less disappointing. The Minister of Communications' reaction — asking the American authorities to restrict Eastern's rights — is even more regrettable.

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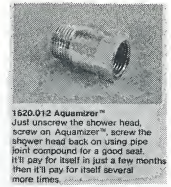
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Both the island governments of Curaçao and Aruba issued a strong protest, and business organizations joined in expressing their disapproval publicly.

Applause

Rather than criticizing Eastern for opening up two flights daily for the promotional fare of US\$ 199,—, the tourist authorities, hotelmanagers and trade organizations are of the opinion that the marketing policy of the U.S. airline should be applauded. The promotional fare and the two daily flights offer a valuable research tool for our tourism. There is no better way to test new markets than by offering plenty of seats at low fares. With Eastern's large number of through connections to many cities that up to now did not have good connections to Aruba and Curaçao, the programme offers first rate possibilities for advertising, promotion and research, all in one. To set up a promotion campaign with the same impact ourselves, would cost us millions of dollars. The programme of Eastern gives us an opportunity to find out whether low fares combined with attractive hotelroom rates, can generate the growth of tourism. A growth needed badly to create more employment. ■



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Paradise Village

New hotel project serves many ends

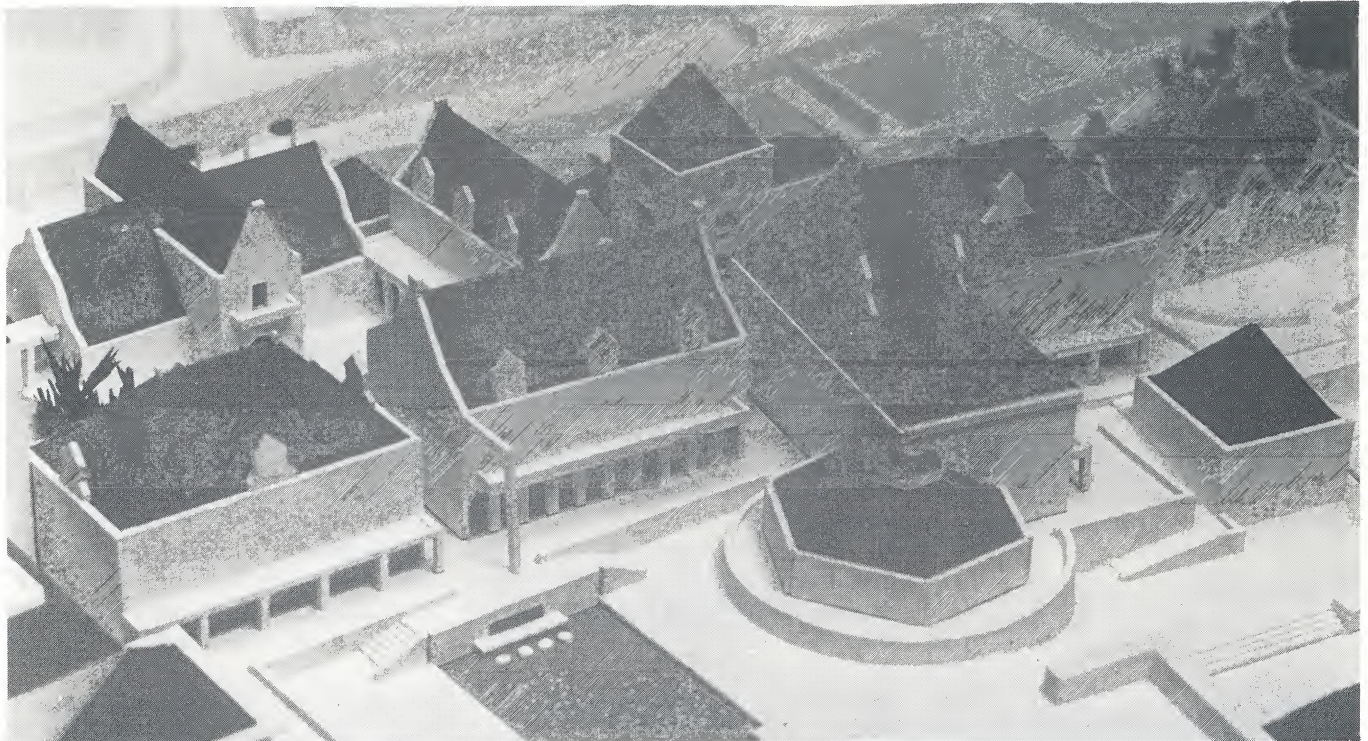


photo Hart's Camera

The architectural planning is as fascinating as beautiful. The interests of businessmen and tourists alike can hardly be better served. At least four hundred new jobs will be created. The old glory of one of the most typical parts of Willemstad will be saved for generations to come.

Such are the conclusions one must draw after reviewing the proposed plans for a new 250-room hotel in village style on the treshold of one of the oldest parts of Willemstad, Curaçao.

Paradise

The name Paradise Village is aptly chosen. Young architect Jeffrey Silberstein (27), of architects Zingel Broos van Werkhoven, on request of initiator Curaçao Project Management N.V. designed the project in the old Dutch colonial style so characteristic of Willemstad. Five old still existing mansions will after restoration find themselves grouped around the

main building, which itself surrounds a lush tropical courtyard. All buildings give entry to a terrace with a swimming pool and a few steps down to four beaches. Furnished to please even the most exquisite European taste the 220 rooms, 21 apartments, 8 suites and presidential suite offer the visitor a view of tropical gardens and the Caribbean sea. At least six highly individual restaurants, a casino satisfying the taste of both the American and European customer, a discotheque and several bars will present the guests with a wide variety of entertainment.

Feasibility

With a rise in overnight visitors of 111% in four years and an average occupancy rate in the A-type hotels of 74.4% in 1979, Curaçao needs an increase in its hotel capacity. Market surveys also reveal the need for a first-class hotel to satisfy the demand of tourism, in particular from Europe and South America, and

of the business world. These and other research findings prompted the Curaçao Project Management N.V. (Curaçao and Bochum-W. Germany) to develop the 40 million guilder project and look for a site at walking distance from the city and yet with all the seclusion the tourist desires. This was found at the beginning of Penstraat close to 'Pietermaai Smal', a somewhat delapidated but still very picturesque part of the old city. After some initial problems of legal nature concerning the acquisition of the property, the island government bought the required space and handed the CPM a letter of intent assuring a longterm leasing possibility. In the meantime the renowned Golden Tulip Hotels organisation, interested in the future management of the hotel, was invited to do a feasibility study. Its findings were quite positive. Even a calculation based on a negative reading of the available data indicates the possibility of a solvent operation. ▶

Budget

Total costs were eventually estimated at DM 45,900,000.—. The actual construction and additional costs will take up 66.43% of the invested capital. Almost one million will be available for promotional purposes. Of the totally needed capital 60% will come from third parties. The government of the Netherlands Antilles has given the CPM a letter of intent guaranteeing the interest and redemption payments. It is expected that parliament (the Staten) will approve the warranty in one of its August sessions. The island government of Curaçao has un-animously advised parliament to do so. A positive decision will no doubt stimulate investors, which are presently being approached on the German capital market and justify the relatively high input (40%) by the company itself.

Employment

The feasibility studies show that

at least 275 to 300 will have to be employed by the hotel. The casino will need a staff of 50-75. Shops and other services will add another 25, bringing the total of newly created jobs to approximately 400. It is estimated that the project will create indirectly another 70-120 jobs.

Guests

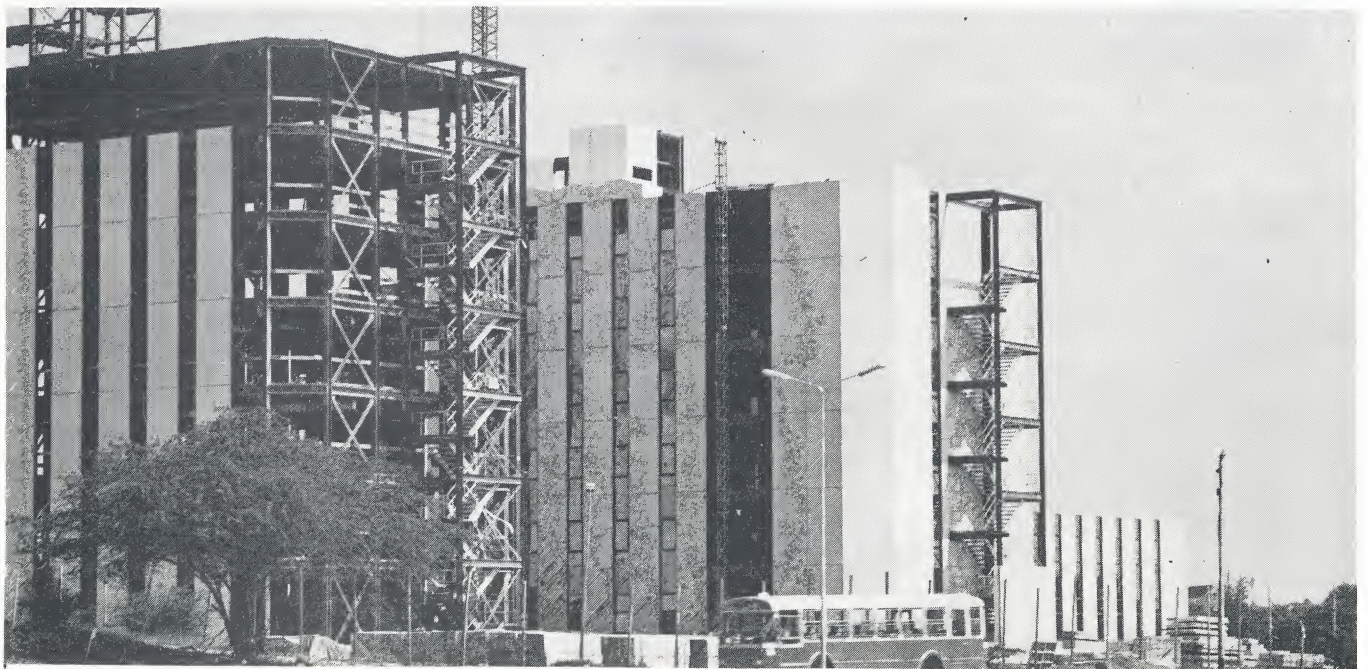
Analyses of the present tourist market give rise to the expectation that tourism from Europe, in particular Germany, will increase. Cooperation with the Golden Tulip organization implies the availability of a worldwide reservation system. A careful prognosis taking into account place of origin and length of stay indicates a guest potential of 24.3% from Europe, 11.3% from the USA/Canada and 64.4% from South America (27.4% from Venezuela).

An intensive promotion campaign in Europe will be set up in cooperation with the Curaçao Tourist Bureau.

Additional

The value of the project for the development of tourism, the employment situation and the economy of the island is obvious. On top of that and in the long run perhaps most important is the boost the project will give to the restoration of old and very unique Willemstad. The architectural concept honours the original structure of the still existing buildings, gates and walls. Five beautiful mansions will thus be saved.

The impact on the surrounding area will be twofold. First of all it will no doubt stimulate the restoration process along Pietermaai Smal. Secondly an improvement of the social level of the neighbourhood may be the result. The final decision on which depends whether the project will indeed be realized is now in the hands of parliament. The careful screening undertaken by the Curaçao authorities warrants the hope that approval will be granted. If so Curaçao will be an even better place to live in and visit. ■



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NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN

The Bilderberg Group

Only the best is good enough



Photo Roger Snow

The name calls forth memories of that famous international think tank presided by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Exactly what is intended.

Mr. A. Knijnenburg, president and sole shareholder of the Bilderberg Group which owns St. Maarten's Little Bay Hotel and manages the new Bel Air, makes no secret of it. "When we bought the Bilderberg Hotel, where His Royal Highness used to hold the Bilderberg Conferences, we immediately adopted the name. It suggests class and quality, precisely what we aim at."

The group

When the Little Bay Hotel was bought (1980), the Bilderberg Group had already, in spite of its young age, established a reputation of rare craftsmanship. In contrast to the popular trend of centralised hotel chain'ism the Board of Directors allowed the 16 hotels and 12 restaurants a large measure of individual freedom. The only charge: quality. As a result the hotels rank amongst the very best and three of the restaurants earned the three star distinction. The history of the Group is no less unique. In 1968 mr. Knijnenburg bought a dilapidated hotel in the Netherlands with borrowed money. Today, twelve years later, the Group is worth 120 million Dutch guilders and employs 550 people. Most of the establishments are to be found in the Netherlands, but the Group is rapidly becoming international with two hotels in Italy, one on St. Maarten and talks going on about the acquisition of hotels in Belgium and West Germany.

Meeting over breakfast at the poolside of the BelAir hotel

mr. Knijnenburg explains AR why the Group became interested in St. Maarten. First of all there was the offer to buy Little Bay. The history of the hotel agrees with the philosophy of the Group. It has always been a better class hotel. Many of its guests have been returning for years. The Group intends to keep it that way. Presently 1.1 million guilders are being invested in much needed

renovation. Mr. Knijnburg flies across the ocean every six weeks to keep an eye on the proceedings. In August a regular training scheme for the employees will be started. The Little Bay project has obviously become a personal pet of the dynamic Dutchman.

Expansion

A second reason to expand business to the Caribbean is for financial policy reasons. The possibility of a better return from investments abroad has prompted the Group to go international. Mr. Knijnenburg is carefully optimistic about increasing the activities of the Group in the area. It is already taking care of the management of Westermeyer's brand new condominium hotel BelAir. AR learned early July that the Bilderberg Group is one of the candidates for the management of Mullet Bay, which will probably be reopened on the 1st of October next.

In general, however, the policy of the Group is first to consolidate. The exceptional rapid growth of the chain and the desire to render the best of services make this necessary.

The only problem plaguing mr. Knijnenburg is the fact that he is the sole shareholder. If by any means possible he would like his employees to become partners in the ownership of the Group. Selling the organization seems not to be on his mind. Fortunately so for St. Maarten, which can do with solid and inventive businessmen like mr. Knijnenburg. ■



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Economic survey

by H. C. Beers

Reporting on economic development requires the availability of relevant data in order to explain and judge the events and movements within the economy. In this respect employment, prices and income are important factors. To take proper and timely action goals and policies have to be set. To discuss the measures taken and results recorded reliable figures are needed. In the Netherlands Antilles not too many statistics are published and only a few are up to date; economic policies are vague and lack the desirable framework. For years unemployment has been the main problem, especially on Curaçao. However, no reliable data exist and complete information is seldom given to the general public, even when important decisions have to be made. During the last few months problems have arisen in the employment field, because some companies ran into financial difficulties. This was the case with Mullet Bay, ALM, and some smaller enterprises. They do not publish annual reports nor any other regular and general information thus preventing a proper review. Due to these circumstances this economic survey has to be given in terms of general and financial developments. Trade and industry are not reviewed in detail.

Monetary Developments

One of the very few financial statements which is still being published on time covers the condensed balance sheet of the Central Bank. This statement does not provide all the necessary data to judge the state of the economy. It does, however, contain enough information to get a proper impression of the general economic developments and of the monetary situation in particular. The balance sheet is published on a weekly basis, but for reasons unknown it seldom reaches the many daily papers sold in the Netherlands Antilles. The Central Bank also publishes the end of

month figures in the Official Gazette. The main items appearing as assets on the balance sheet are the official international reserves, comprising the gold stock as well as foreign claims and securities. Also the advances granted to the Central Government, the banking institutions and the private sector are shown. The liabilities of the Central Bank mainly consist of bank notes in circulation and deposits held by the tax collectors, the governments, the banks and the private sector. Non-residents maintain small balances with the Central Bank; the amount of capital and reserves does not change frequently but has reached a rather high level during the last ten years by profits being retained.

The main items of the condensed balance sheet are shown in table 1.

Loans

The gold stock is valued at a price of \$ 42.22 per troy ounce fine gold. The foreign reserves consist of deposits with banks abroad; most of these deposits are expressed in U.S. dollars.

A striking aspect in above mentioned table appears to be the loans to the domestic banking system. Such loans were never granted in the last ten years. The banks always had ample liquid reserves and did not require any additional borrowing from the banker's bank. In how far did this picture change during 1981.

To make a proper judgement more data are needed; particularly the Selected Monetary Figures, which is a monthly publication by the Central Bank with selected data of the banking and credit system. However this survey is issued with a time lag of approximately two months. The latest survey refers to the end of April 1981.

During the period May 1980/April 1981 the bank according to this survey raised a net total amount of f. 105.3 million

from the private sector (+ f. 109.5 million), the island governments (- f. 13.2 million) and the Central Bank (+ f. 9.0 million). They invested a total amount of f. 159 million by granting loans to residents (+ f. 97.5 million), by financing the Central Government through the purchase of treasury paper (+ f. 22 million) and by investing abroad (+ f. 39.3 million); as a consequence their reserves with the Central Bank declined by f. 48.5 million. Taking into account that the net foreign investments are made in the money market and treasury paper and as such can also be considered as liquid assets, the reserve position did not decrease. Primarily the banks moved their surplus funds from their interest free accounts with the Central Bank to high yielding investments abroad and to income producing domestic treasury papers, which reached a level of f. 72.1 million at the end of April 1981.

In May the Government did not issue any paper to solve its growing financial needs. The interim dividend payment by the Central Bank to an amount of f. 8 million appeared to be sufficient. In June however, the Government did raise additional funds by selling f. 5 million treasury paper.

Balance of Payments

The total foreign exchange reserves, which comprise official reserves held by the Central Bank and Net foreign assets held by the private deposit banks, continued to stay at a high level. Compared with the corresponding period of last year the balance of payments showed a surplus. At the end of April 1981 the exchange reserves amounted up to f. 210.1 million which is f. 47.1 million more than a year before. At the end of May 1981 an amount of f. 220.3 million was reached, resulting in an annual surplus of f. 46.6 million.

The balance of payments data for the first quarter have meanwhile been published by the Central Bank. They are shown in table 2. The data do not include payments made by the two oil refineries through their banking accounts abroad which are mainly related to the purchase and sale of oil and oil products. These huge amounts reflecting one of the most important economic activities of this country, would however distort the compilation of the quarterly developments. The yearly balance of payments includes these oil movements, but the quarterly only takes into account the payments made and received through the domestic banking system and some related payments.

The net amount of merchandise imports ►

FINANCE

Table 1

Condensed balance sheet Central Bank; f. million.				
assets:	08-30-1981	05-31-1981	04-30-1981	03-31-1981
gold stock	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4
foreign reserves	162.0	167.4	145.0	152.3
loans to:				
— government	81.4	89.1	84.3	89.5
— banks	0.6	—	9.0	—
— private sector	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
sundry assets	7.1	7.0	7.3	9.7
TOTAL	293.8	306.2	288.3	294.2
liabilities:				
bank notes	166.5	161.8	160.2	157.2
deposits held by:				
— tax collectors	6.1	3.9	0.2	5.9
— island governments	2.3	1.1	1.1	0.4
— banks	18.2	27.5	24.4	41.7
— development projects	18.9	30.1	19.6	9.0
— private sector	18.1	18.3	15.3	14.7
— non-residents	0.2	0.2	—	0.1
money in custody	2.1	2.1	0.6	0.6
sundry debts	15.5	15.3	21.0	18.7
Capital and Reserves	45.9	45.9	45.9	45.9

Table 2.

external cash flow summary; nett amounts, f. million.		
	FIRST QUARTER	
	1981	1980
merchandise	— 307.9	— 361.5
transportation	72.5	104.8
tourism	208.8	177.1
investment income	— 35.4	— 17.7
government services	28.1	46.4
private remittances	— 20.2	— 160.0
remittances refineries	44.2	62.3
other services	26.2	16.0
balance current payments	16.3	11.4
private capital	— 39.2	— 10.8
government capital	7.4	— 2.6
statistical differences	8.9	5.3
increase reserves	— 6.6	3.3

decreased substantially. This is probably partly due to the recording of some oil trade by the transshipment companies. Such trade may influence the quarterly outcome of the merchandise account. Some may indicate a less favourable trend in the economic development. The same can be said of the large reduction in transportation income, which resulted from oil storage fees, ship maintenance and repairs, as well as other transportation activities. Tourism per-

formed well showing an increase in foreign exchange receipts of f. 31.7 million or 18%. Government services fell because of less income from offshore profit taxes which declined to f. 25 million from f. 43.7 million. The operational remittances by the oil refineries plummeted to f. 44.2 million due to two causes. In the first place last year the oil refineries made some prepayments on their profit taxes and in the second place the price of motor gasoline

had been increased in the beginning of this year, providing the refineries with more domestic income.

Private capital payments went up to an outflow of f. 39.2 million, mainly because of an increase in balances held by the private sector with banking institutions and affiliated companies abroad. This development may be influenced by the high interest rates for short-term capital abroad.

The exchange rate for the U.S. dollar in the international market stayed at the high level reached in May. During June the daily changes were relatively small, keeping the Dutch guilder around a rate of f. 0.68 in the Antillean system of exchange rates.

Increase

The month of July is very important for balance of payments developments. In this period the oil refineries on Aruba and Curaçao have to pay their profit taxes to the respective Island Governments. The amounts due are transferred by the refineries from their foreign banking accounts to the domestic banking system. Consequently the foreign exchange reserves will increase by the amounts received and the banks as well as the Island Governments will get liquid funds at their disposal. When the governments spend these funds, which is usually done at high speed, the reverse will happen and the balance of payments will be influenced negatively by the domestic spending.

In 1980 the refineries paid an amount of about f. 60 million. As a result of the high profits made during the last few years and the running out of compensable losses for tax purposes, the two refineries have to pay a substantial amount of about f. 150 million in July 1981. Such a payment has tremendous consequence on balance of payments, public finance and monetary developments of the small island economies of the Netherlands Antilles. The authorities concerned have to take the proper measures to channel such a huge sum of money. The government has already had some experience with the handling of additional income amounts such as development aid, offshore profit tax and wage tax. When the increase is of a structural nature it can be spent, but this must be done of course in a proper way in the interest of the economy.

The main problem is the employment situation, which can only be solved through productive investments. Growing expenditures for consumptive purposes which is mostly the case with government payments, will not contribute to a higher production and a sound employment situation. ■

The offshore business

Progress report on tax treaty negotiations

The next six months may prove to be of great importance for the future of the offshore business, one of the largest sources of income of the Netherlands Antilles. Negotiations with the USA, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands are expected to move forward soon and possibly yield results before the end of the year. A most welcome development, as the present uncertainty with regard to the future is not to the advantage of the offshore business nor of the Antilles.

USA.

Negotiations with the government of the USA, the second round of which took place in Bonaire in June 1980, were held up for more than a year due to the presidential elections. The appointment of a new International Tax Counsel to the Treasury following the change in administration took longer than expected. Even by the end of last June no official appointment had as yet been announced. There seems little doubt, however, that the position will go to mr. Alan Granwell, a lawyer from New York.

The Treasury Department in Washington in the meantime informed the Government of the Netherlands Antilles that it wants to continue the negotiations during the latter part of August next. The implication of this rather long delay is that the present treaty will remain in force at least till December 31, 1982, as the critical date of July the 1-st before which an agreement should be concluded has expired.

Threats

On the 16th of June last a new US model treaty was published in

which the so-called shopping provision has been tightened up considerably. The positive approach of the former model (1977) is replaced by a rather negative one, the application of which would be much to the disadvantage of the Antilles (see insert). However, as the afore mentioned negotiations started last year, it is expected that these will be continued on the basis of the 1977 model.

Another development which might threaten the offshore business in the Antilles is the recent decision of the US Central Bank to allow New York banks to open special sections exempt from the usual controls (interest rate ceilings and reserve requirements) and accept deposits from corporations, banks

Art. 16 U.S. Model 16 June 1981

- (1) A person . . . shall not be entitled under this convention to relief from taxation in the other state unless:
- a. more than 75% of the beneficial interest in such person is owned directly or indirectly by one or more individual residents of the first mentioned state; and
 - b. the income of such person is not used in substantial part, directly or indirectly to meet liabilities (incl. liabilities for interest or royalties) to persons who are of a state other than a contracting state and who are not citizens of the U.S.

and individuals based outside the United States. Loans they make will have to be used solely for foreign purpose. Although many American financiers believe the decision has the potential to give large US cities the same drawing power for international money now enjoyed by foreign money centres, experts in the Antilles do not see an immediate threat. Rules in the Antilles are still much more liberal. But if the uncertainty about the future with regard to the tax treaty lasts much longer, it might indeed draw away business. Already larger stock exchange registered companies are becoming hesitant about doing business through the Antilles. It is therefore hoped that an agreement will soon be reached.

Europe

During the first days of June last an Antillean delegation, headed by the Minister of Finance mr. Marco de Castro, paid a visit to the Netherlands to discuss the Kingdom Act on Taxation (the concept 'treaty' is commonly used only between non-related nations). Aim of the visit was first of all to discuss Holland's desire to sharpen the interpretation of certain articles of the Act. The Antilles, according to the Dutch, are taking advantage of loopholes in the Act, which were not intended. Dutch companies for example are thus enabled to establish subsidiary companies in the Antilles, which in turn forward loans to their parent companies thereby evading approximately 45% in taxes. No conclusion was drawn and the negotiations are continuing.

Another point of discussion concerned the attitude of certain tax-inspectors with regard to the application of the Act. The authorities promised to ensure strict adherence. The negotiations between the Antilles and the United Kingdom are also continuing. Following the talks in November 1980 in Willemstad, the Antillean Government recently submitted a new proposition. A response is expected before the end of this year. ■

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Discrimination against women

by W. Luiten

Jobs are hard to find in the Antilles. The government for that reason tries to allot those scarce jobs as justly as possible. A general prohibition to work is imposed on married women from outside the Antilles. Antillean married women cannot be employed by the government. If a female civil servant gets married or goes to live in concubinage, she will lose her job. Exceptions are only made, if the woman is bread-winner or indispensable to the Government.

Against these last provisions a storm of protest has at this moment arisen both in Aruba and Curaçao, especially on the part of the women's organizations. Can this be considered discrimination against women?

A men's view

The provisions now being objected to were intentionally included in the civil servant's legal provisions in 1964. Just allotment of labour was the motive. In a situation in which so many are confronted with the horrible consequences of unemployment, it would not be right for the government to permit freely and without reservations both husband and wife of one family to hold a job. From a social point of view it is absolutely unacceptable that in one family the incomes of husband and wife accumulate, whereas another family is left completely without income. The government has been consequent in this policy. In entering into international basic rights conventions, e.g. the International Convention on civil rights and political rights of the United Nations in 1966, a reservation has always been made for the Antilles with regard to those provisions giving women equal access to public functions. The argument used by women that this is a case of discrimination is not correct. The provisions in question have absolutely no intention to discriminate against women. They in fact do not discriminate. If a couple is really emancipated, a woman can very well go on working during her marriage. If the husband resigns from his own job, his wife will automatically become the bread-winner and can continue to work normally.

Isn't it so that the organizations

who are waging war against these provisions consist mainly of women from the higher social milieus, who under the guise of progressiveness are above all pursuing their own interests at the cost of the most oppressed in our community, the families of which the breadwinners are unemployed?

A women's view

Although it is not possible for me to express a women's view, I can still bring up a certain understanding for some of the objections women have against this situation. Perhaps the provisions have no intention to discriminate against women, but that does not mean that they don't do exactly that.

When in a number of southern states of the United States limitations were introduced on the voting right, which had as objective improving the quality of the electorate, these were nevertheless in general considered discriminating, because it was precisely the negroes in those states who did not meet the voting requirements (job, education, possession). Not only the intention one declares to have in introducing the regulation determines whether it is discriminating, but also the effect thereof. And the discriminatory effect of our provisions is evident. It is not fair to allow the consequences of structural unemployment to fall on the shoulders of women and to systematically exclude them from participation in the labour process. There are all kinds of methods to soften the

disagreeable consequences of unemployment or to spread them over the entire population (fiscal measures, compulsory education, advanced retirement, part time jobs, relief-work projects, social securities, etc.).

Instead the legislator looks for the easiest solution and allows the burden to fall on just one group of the population, the women.

In addition to this consideration of principle there are also practical objections. In many cases no qualified persons can be found to replace the married woman. The woman will in that case remain in government service but with a much weaker legal status, which makes her vulnerable. Although the intention was to spread employment opportunity, the effect is deterioration of the legal position of a large group of government personnel.

Another practical objection is that precisely experienced workers are drained away from the government apparatus, the occupation of which is none too strong to begin with. The government has to make all possible effort to maintain the rendering of services at an acceptable level and at the same time gets rid of its most experienced workers!

A choice

The legislator will have to make a choice between these two diametrically opposed views. The government has already promised to make a study of the case. The choice will not be easy.

In principle the women's organizations are fighting for a strong point. They rightly feel that the legal provisions are a form of discrimination. Yet it will not be sufficient for the government to submit proposals to delete those provisions. In doing so it will abandon the point of departure of solidarity with the most oppressed in our society.

Perhaps the discussion brought about by women will provide a good opportunity to start thinking about more effective methods to involve the underprivileged groups in a social and economic sense in the community. ■



photo Hart's Camera

Jewish community on Curaçao to celebrate 250th anniversary of synagogue building

The Mother Community of the Americas, as the Mikveh-Israel congregation on Curaçao was called in ages past, is presently readying itself for the 250th anniversary celebration of its synagogue building, the oldest in the Western Hemisphere in continuous use. An event of great historical significance not only for the Jewish community but also for the island, as their histories are most intricately intertwined. A symposium featuring internationally recognized scholars on Western Sephardim and the issuance of a special series of postal stamps, a gold coin and a Delft-blue plate will mark the occasion.

Passover

The celebrations will take place from March 19th-21st, 1982, two and a half centuries after the beautiful edifice was consecrated on the Eve of Passover in the year 1732. A date most appropriate with a view to the historical origins of the Jewish community on the island. Driven out of Spain

and Portugal by severe persecution the forefathers of the Jewish families now living in Curaçao — many still bearing the same names — found a safe haven in freedom loving Amsterdam of the early 17th century. During the second half of that century a fair number of these Spanish-Portuguese Sephardics migrated to Curaçao and found, if not the promised land, a place where they could live, work and worship in freedom. Today their descendants call the island univocally 'home'.

Programme

Prior to the actual festivities in March a number of events will capture the public's eye. Early in 1982 an illustrated book (64 pages) will be published telling the history of the building and of its three predecessors. Showing pictures of original designs and artifacts used in the Synagogue, some of which are older than the synagogue itself, the book will be a valuable addition to the written history of Curaçao.

On February the 15th the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles will issue a gold coin (face value Naf 250.—) to honour the occasion. Also during February the Foundation for the Preservation of Historical Monuments will produce a limited quantity of Delft-blue plates showing part of the Synagogue building. The Authorities will on March the 12th issue a special series of stamps showing the interior and exterior of the building.

In the third week of March guests from all over the world, amongst whom will be delegates from world wide Jewish organizations and sister congregations, as well as several former rabbis of the Curaçao congregation, will start arriving to take part in the main celebrations. The decision of the World Union for Progressive Judaism to hold its Governor Conference at the same time on the island shows the international recognition of the celebration by Jews throughout the world. ■

Rabbi Aaron L. Peller on:

Curaçao

Major reason why I love to live and work on the island is its people. It has a cosmopolitan nature. One feels involved. There is an ability to feel good about the country. One can be a national without being nationalistic. Why I came to Curaçao? Because I value personal contact. I'm not interested in a large congregation, where it is impossible to know your people by name. In Curaçao people still recognize one another. I'm often stopped in the street by total strangers who recognize me from my weekly TV-talk and wish to comment on what I said.

Ecumenism

Often ecumenical relations are forced. Here they are not. There is a genuine understanding of each other. As a rabbi I'm an observer to the Curaçao Council of Churches, but when matters concerning society come up I'm regarded a member with voting rights! The best way to get rid of religious prejudice is to show cooperation at clergy level. We have to set an example without scratching each other's back.

Religious laziness

Most people have a feeling for religion. Sad events and crises or moments of great joy bring that feeling up. But the self-impetus seems to be missing. The prevailing attitude is: nice to know its there when I need it. You see people come out at marriages, religious holidays and a lot of them at death. But that's it for most people. There is no self-impetus. And that does not apply to religion only. I believe this has to do with a lack of role models. Like what Churchill meant for the English in the war. And sport's heroes in former days for young people. But today we have a lack of heroes. Sport is done for money and amongst too many

people the prevailing attitude seems to be: as long as you do not flagrantly violate the law it's OK. The visit of the Queen, that was something else. Wow, you could feel the spirit. I wish we could have bottled it. People are looking for role models. Not for men and women who rise above them, but who bring them along to higher levels of consciousness and understanding. The clergy have a responsibility in this respect. They have their own entry. They should tell the people: things are not that bleak, there is light at the end of the tunnel. But if you want a rose garden you have to work for it.

Human rights

Clergy as a group have to be willing to stick their necks out. It is

photo Roger Snow



nice to get up in the pulpit and talk about morality and ethics as long as it is abstract. What I'm saying is that a clergyman should be willing to bring to the attention of the people names like Sacharov and Timmerman. Men who are harassed because they speak out. I'm not talking about political dissidents. But about the inalienable rights of people. If the clergy keeps quiet, how are people going to know and do something about it?

Education

It's the foundation of everything. You know I took a masters in curriculum development. What matters is content and . . . care! Teachers have to be religious in their caring for education and the children. I'm not talking about religious education but about religion in education. You see, religion is a way of life. It has to do with the basic concepts of self-awareness, respect, morality, God. Those should be the underpinnings of education. There is more than content. There is also example. You can't teach if you're not willing to involve yourself.

Leisure time

Leisure time really is unpressured time. We should divide it. Part of it should be spent for ourselves, which means basically with our families. And part of it should be spent for other people. Far too few devote time to social welfare causes. Many of us seem to have little goal in life: just to get up healthy in the morning, do our work and hurry home to relax in the evening. What bothers me too is the lack of recreational possibilities. Take our beaches. They are no longer pretty, nor are there sufficient playgrounds for children. Maybe the government should get the clergy involved. Start an action like 'Clean Knip' and ask the religious bodies to help. After all there is an enormous reservoir of manpower available, which is as yet untapped. ■



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The future looked bleak for our national airline A.L.M. when Eastern recently decided to start flying the Miami-Aruba-Curaçao route twice daily at lower fares. Already facing grave financial problems A.L.M. envisaged the possible loss of its most profitable route. Major shareholder, the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, did whatever it could to counteract Eastern's move. Much to the displeasure, however, of hotel managers, who for obvious reasons were quite happy with Eastern's initiative.

Some of the background aspects are highlighted underneath.

Fare complexities

Airline companies all over the world have always been masters in inventing complex fare-structures. On almost all routes businessmen had to pay relatively high fares. The nature of their work did not allow them to make use of the attractive offers of reduced fares, as these were conditioned by rules and regulations such as advance booking procedures (30 days before departure), minimum stay requirements (no return earlier than 14 days after departure) and more of such limitations.

Businessmen who could not comply with such requirements received the same service as the vacationer who paid considerably less. Moreover the enormous growth of the vacation-market forcing the airlines to increase their seating ca-

capacity caused a situation in which businessmen found themselves narrowly seated in rows of three and as a result deprived of any chance to work or write a report en route. Meanwhile his fellow travellers did not even know what they were actually paying for their seats having purchased a "package" including transportation, transfers, hotel, sightseeing etc.

Pretty soon innovative travel-organizers introduced the so called "Throw-away-packages" consisting of a special (low) airfare plus a number of days in some out of the way inn where the traveller would not sleep at all. Businessmen began making use of these packages paying separately for the hotel of their own choice. At long last they also got a deal, while the cleverly planned fare structures of the air-

lines were gradually being undermined.

Specials

During the past few years travel costs have risen disproportionately in comparison to other consumer items. A development which has created a breed of sophisticated, price-conscious consumers, who are very much on the look out for ways to cut costs so that they can continue going on an "experience" at least once a year.

These signals have been taken note of by the airlines and the travel trade in general. Marketing strategies are beginning to resemble those of the supermarkets with Wednesday-specials and cash and carry outlets.

Eastern

One of the most recent examples of such a change in market strategy is Eastern's approach to the Miami-Aruba-Curaçao connection.

Quite a few businessmen from the Netherlands Antilles are travelling frequently to Miami either to stay there or to continue to other destinations. The A.L.M. schedule proved ideal even for those who wished to arrive in Chicago, Dallas or Los Angeles on the same day they left the Antilles. When Eastern Airlines was granted permission to fly the same route the company naturally wanted the same ideal departure time. But to achieve this it had to schedule a flight leaving Miami early in the morning. As not many people living in or near Miami take their vacations in the Antilles, Eastern, in order to fill up this early southbound-flight, tried to lure people into taking a night coach from their home towns or even spend a night in Miami by offering the attractively reduced fare of \$ 199,-. The return portion of that bargain-roundtrip had to be used on Eastern's late afternoon departure. The message was the same: continue from Miami by night coach to your final destination or spend another night in Miami before continuing your trip home. Although Eastern announced that ▶

this special fare was only available to those buying a package of at least six nights, the total costs were not very different from the regular 21 day roundtrip-fare of A.L.M.

Alarm

Hotel managers in both Aruba and Curaçao welcomed Eastern's initiative to connect their island twice daily with quite a number of destinations in the USA and Canada for such an attractive price. A.L.M., however, was most alarmed. The company informed its major shareholder, the government, that Eastern's strategy might well kill its most profitable route. The authorities immediately sent off a delegation to Washington to plead A.L.M.'s case. But in the context of a bilateral agreement and a deregulated air-policy the American authorities could do little more than ask Eastern to "play it cool". The situation is obviously of great concern to the Antillean government. The inter-

nationally oriented business as well as the tourist industry depend on reliable connections to airports where the crossroads of the world are. This cannot be left entirely in the hands of a foreign carrier. The national airline A.L.M. simply has to survive.

Markets

When early in the year Eastern announced that they would operate 2 daily flights between Miami and Aruba/Curaçao, ALM apparently thought they were bluffing. The business- and pleasure-travel could not grow that fast that it would justify 2 Eastern and 2 ALM-flights on a daily basis. But what everybody forgot was that Eastern hardly tried to penetrate in the fast growing and highly lucrative Venezuela-market. Eastern's application to fly Miami-Caracas v.v. was denied by the government authorities to protect the interests of Viasa (and Pan American). Eastern scheduled their flights to

Aruba and Curaçao in such a way that they would connect to and from Caracas on another Venezuelan airline, Aeropostal (LAV). That is what is called entering via the backdoor.

The victory

Under pressure Eastern quietly withdrew one flight as from July 15.

Viasa and Pan American are grateful for the help by the Antillean government to stop Eastern draining the Venezuela-market. ALM can smile again now that competition is back to normal.

But there are a lot of people who are not happy and will do everything to get Eastern back to their original plan.

Hopefully ALM got the message that the businessman wants more room and a better product. And also that in competition with Eastern the passengers travelling to and from other destinations in the USA need better service than provided now. ■



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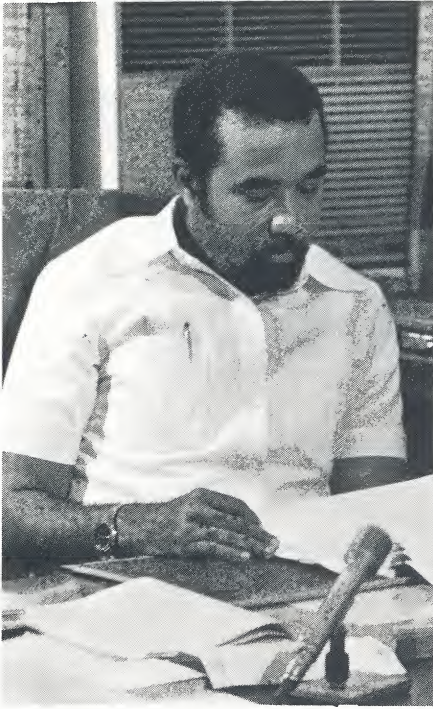
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PEOPLE



George H. Curiel, Director of the Department for Development Cooperation, recently left Curaçao on a one-year fellowship to Yale University (USA). Mr. Curiel (36) will undertake a programme of study in International Development Economics. The particular course has an international reputation as one of the best offered to senior government officials working in the areas of economic development from both developed countries.

In addition, the course is closely associated with the research programme of Yale University's Economic Growth Centre, the most outstanding research organization on economic development in the USA. Consequently, it offers access to the latest information and techniques being employed in developing on a continuing basis. Mr. Curiel, who is a graduate (1978) of the University of the Neth. Antilles, will be the first Antillean to take this advanced economics course at Yale.

Preparing a slide show for promotional purposes about Aruba's container harbour to be, are Janwybe van Dijk, his wife Lizzy acting as scriptgirl, and photographer Fritz Krätz. Working for Copirama, a Dutch slide-show production company, they plan to have a first 20 minutes long showing of 320 slides on 4 simultaneously working projectors with accompanying text in 4 languages and local background music, ready by September. The team, which has worked for reputed firms like Ogem and Rolls Royce, will return to Aruba three times to update the production, which will be used by Aruba's



Port's Authority to advertize its services.



A recent arrival in Curaçao augers well for the expanding crafts industry in the Netherlands Antilles. **Juanita Aasmundrud** is a United Nations specialist in fashion design and production who has joined the staff of the crafts and small enterprise project at the Central Government's Department of Development Cooperation. She will advise and assist craft foundations in Curaçao. Aruba and Saba currently engaged in hand-printing silk-screened fabrics and garment manufacture. From Halmstad, Sweden, Mrs. Aasmundrud is a graduate of the Ecole Guerre-Lavigne, Paris, in haute couture and a widely-traveled and experienced garment production expert. She has worked as a UN consultant and in a private capacity in Egypt, the Seychelles, Kenya, Ivory Coast and Madagascar.

Last June the Curaçao section of the Red Cross celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. During the reception held at its headquarters in Suffisant many of the members were praised and decorated for their voluntary work during all these years. **Dr. Paul Ackerman**, as commander, pinned the gold medal on Mr. **Theodoor Martina** who has served faithfully almost from the outset. Besides as a staunch and devoted Red Cross worker Mr. Martina is also very well-known in this community as Chodó, the memorable personage of a television series, produced here quite some years ago. To Chodó and all the others our compliments and congratulations.



He is known for his forthrightness. "Many well meaning Dutch", according to psychiatrist **Herbert de Windt** (49), "tend in their approach to development cooperation to show a lack of respect for the cultural identity of other peoples! On the other hand, he notes an inclination on the part of Antilleans to bestow a greater authority on Dutch experts than on their Antillean counterparts. Both attitudes were criticised by de Windt as mistaken at the occasion of his being awarded the M.D. by the University of Groningen (Holland) on July



the first of this year. The doctorate was granted to de Windt on basis of an elaborate retrospective research of the clinical history of 131 patients afflicted with one or more meningoemen. A non-malignant tumour, the meningoemen is described by dr. de Windt as very malicious because of its usual occurrence close to the brain. Speaking out on social concerns at the above mentioned ceremony typifies de Windt, who besides his medical and scientific work has involved himself deeply with the well-being of his people.



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A date to remember

by Edsel A. V. (Papy) Jesurun

Curaçao has never known fireworks in June and yet on Saturday-night June 8th, 1929, a calm and peaceful night, at 9.15 fireworks were heard. Why were there fireworks on this Saturday-night when usually only the familiar sounds of the customary end-of-the-week celebrations and revelries should be heard? At this time many wondered who could be letting off fireworks on that day and hour, when it was only allowed on New Year's Eve. Nobody paid attention nor gave further thought to it. A few moments before, however, two trucks with extinguished lights had been roaring through Pietermaai at a very high speed.

The attack

Approaching the gate of the Waterfort, the trucks containing a band of some 80 Venezuelans, rode straight through without making the customary stop and coming to a halt on the exercising ground in the Fort, to the great consternation of the one-man-sentry at the gate. The assailants under the leadership of a 32 year old Venezuelan, Rafael Simon Urbina (today one of the historical personalities of our island history) jumped out swiftly and dispersed rapidly through the Waterfort, the same site where the Curaçao Plaza Hotel stands today. The band, organized in small groups, first cut down the gate-sentry. The unfortunate man received a severe cut with a "machete" (cutlass) on the head and bleeding profusely fell to the ground, where he was left behind by his assailants, who assumed that he was dead. Urbina's cohorts were not only in possession of lethal "machetes" but also had some carbines and pistols at their disposal. The five other men of the guardhouse put up a heroic resistance, but were forced to surrender after Master Sgt. Lieuwe Vaas was killed. The other groups rushed through the remaining quarters of the Fort. At that moment there were approximately 40 men, the majority either sleeping or hanging around in the messroom or canteen. These men were also completely caught by surprise and the defence they put up during this skirmish was insignificant.

Surprise

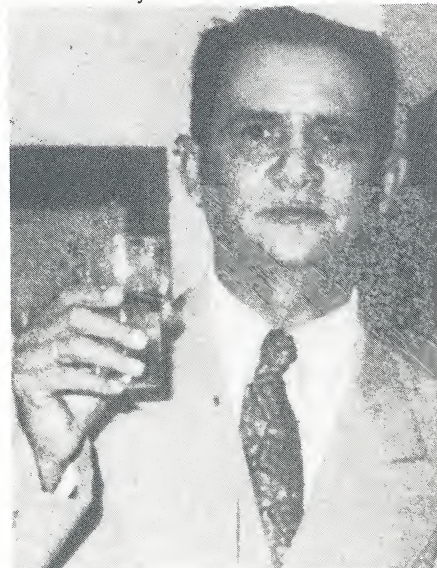
Urbina's attack was well planned. In those days the refinery labour force consisted of large groups of Venezuelans who resided at nearby Rio Canario (a foreigners' camp). Urbina had built up a

great following through brief contacts with these men as many of them were political exiles from Venezuela. A few days before the 8th of June Urbina arrived for the fifth time in Curaçao presumably in disguise and joined his cronies at Rio Canario, where all further planning of the assault was carefully and secretly done. Historical research indicates that their weapons must have been smuggled into Curaçao in some way or other and kept by his henchmen at Rio Canario. They were definitely not sufficiently equipped for an assault on the Waterfort, but their greatest weapon proved to be the surprise-element.

Objective

Having been transported in August 1928 as a political prisoner from Aruba to Curaçao and having behaved himself as an

Rafael Simón Urbina.



exemplary prisoner during his 3 weeks' stay, Urbina was allowed to do odd chores for the soldiery in the Fort and so made himself well acquainted with the layout of the Waterfort as well as of the movements of the garrison. It was probably during this period that Urbina conceived the plan for the attack and came to the conclusion that the Saturday-night was the most suitable, because at that time the Fort was poorly guarded and the main body of the garrison would be on its weekend-leave. That Saturday-night, 8th of June, the assailants set out in trucks at about 8.30 in an easterly direction so that they would not be delayed at the pontoon bridge with the possibility of being detected. Urbina's main objective was to get possession of as many weapons and ammunition as were available and then sail to invade neighbouring Venezuela. He figured that once he got his band of adventurers well armed it would be a relatively easy matter to oust the 21 years' long dictator Juan Vicente Gomez (for some "el Benemérito General", for others "el Tirano", the Tyrant of the Andes, deceased in 1935). Clearly illustrating this wishful thinking was their battle cry: "Vamonos a Caracas. Nadie nos podrá detener".

Communist

Urbina's righthand-man during the fighting was well-known Venezuelan tennis-champion Gustavo Machado, who a few years before had played in international matches in Curaçao and who according to Dr. Hartog's history book was a notorious communist, founder in 1928 of a communistic cell called "Sociedad 28 de Octubre".

In 1932 he published a book printed in Barcelona, Spain with a communistic emblem on the cover with the title "El asalto a Curazao".

The military police-force was the only defence Curaçao could boast of at the time and on that fatal night many of them were on leave. Others were on patrol throughout the city and lacking means of communications they were not aware of what was happening. The fight lasted half an hour and at the end the rebels were in possession of the Fort and had taken 4 machineguns, 197 rifles, 38 pistols, 150 cartridges, 75 sabres, 7000 rounds of ammunition, binoculars, leatherware and also an amount of f 3,500.— which they found whilst ransacking the Fort buildings. Urbina's fighters also freed a number of Venezuelans jailed for miscellaneous reasons, such as petty thefts, etc., and took them along later on. Among them was also a Venezuelan, named Perez, imprisoned for having committed homicide.



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At gun point

In the meantime more Venezuelans poured into the Fort eager to join the fight. The telephone wires in the Fort were cut off in the early stage of the action. Two groups of Urbina's men occupied the telegraph and cable office at the time the attack started, thus preventing the news to leak to the outer world. Captain Alexis F. Borren, the Fort Commander, was at his Plantersrust home and when he received word of the fighting from Lt. Adrianus P. J. Berger, he immediately rushed off in his car to investigate. He was allowed to enter the Fort, but was received with wild shooting and a Venezuelan rebel made an unsuccessful attempt to kill Borren with a "machete". The Captain was easily taken prisoner and with him Urbina and four armed cronies marched on to the undefended mansion of Gouverneur Ir. Leonard Albert Fruytier at approximately 11.30. Fruytier had during his term of office done everything within his power to convince the Dutch Government that public safety, law and order left much to be desired. The defence force at that time consisted of 90 men, while it was projected to be 150. Before Fruytier the Governors Oscar L. Helfrich and Nicolaas J. L. Brantjes had also been strong advocates for a more appropriate defence system.

A Curaçao lawyer Jorge (Papachi) Sutherland, who was in the neighbourhood at this time, was taken along as an interpreter. At the Governor's mansion Urbina demanded immediate transportation to Venezuela on the ship "Maracaibo" of the Red-D-Line (later Grace line). Previously three rebels had gone

aboard the ship and had asked Captain Morris to transport some men to Coro. Captain Morris, not wholly trusting their looks, refused to comply. After a more pressing request on the part of the strange-looking men the suspecting Captain Morris again steadfastly refused to give in to their demands, whereupon the party departed, and passed on the Captain's negative news to Urbina. Urbina now forced the Governor at gunpoint to press the ship's agents (S.E.L. Maduro + Sons) in letting him have the use of the "Maracaibo", this ship being the fastest in port at that moment.

Departure

He gave an ultimatum to the Governor, threatening to loot the local banks and burn down the Refinery installations at Asiento. The Governor, on the advice of Captain Borren, conceded. It was about 11 o'clock before most of the people in town understood the true meaning of the fireworks. At this point the population had divided into two separate groups, those who were hiding for fear and a second who felt the insult to the island's authority and in their indignation wanted to start a counterattack together with the military policemen who were outside the Fort. However they received word from the Governor not to perform any act of hostility. When the police-force at Rio Canario came to town for assistance, the remaining rebels who stayed behind at Rio Canario raided the deserted police-station and wrecked the furniture. Afterwards they rode to town to join Urbina. Urbina boarded the "Maracaibo" with approximately

260 rebels including all his wounded men. In this connection it is worth mentioning the excellent medical assistance given to the wounded Curaçao soldiers by the two brothers Maal both physician: the late Dr. P. H. (Goengoe) Maal and the late Dr. W. P. (Willy) Maal.

Urbina like a good soldier thoughtfully spiked all the naval guns of the fortress before departing. He also took with him the Governor, Captain Borren and 8 men as hostages. He forced Captain Morris to blow the whistle 10 times, which was the agreed message to his remaining associates.

It was about 3 o'clock in the morning when Willemstad was left to ponder over its humiliating defeat by an improvised little army. Thus another page was added to the colourful history of our island Curaçao.

Postscript

In order to bring this historical essay up to date, it should be noted that 32 years afterwards, on the 8th of June 1961 at about the same hour as the Urbina attack, another military action of lesser importance took place at the local airport. This new incident involved a military plane from Venezuela, which was transporting 7 political military prisoners, who forced the pilot at gunpoint to make a landing at our airport.

Upon hitting the landing-strip the prisoners broke out, one of the guards who had previously been disarmed, recovered a tommy-gun and a short gun battle followed: net result 3 wounded, but this time our armed forcés promptly captured all the Venezuelans, both guards and prisoners. ■

Handcraft: an industry of growing importance

Over 200 persons are presently employed in the craft industry in the Netherlands Antilles. More than 400 went through training programmes since the government began to stimulate the industry in 1973.

Frank Mc.Manus, working with a United Nations advisory team (see AR vol 1, nr. 3), informs AR-readers of developments in St. Eustatius, Saba and Curaçao.

Abundance

Although there is little history of handcrafts in the small islands of the Netherlands Antilles, the materials to make craft articles can be found in abundance . . . coral, stone and shells for jewelry, hardwood and driftwood for carving, goat and cattle for leatherwork, gourds and seeds for souvenir items, certain clays for ceramic and tiles and a tradition of sewing and embroidery.

To create more employment opportunities and diversify from the traditional sectors of trading, oil refining and tourism, the Netherlands Antilles Central Government in Curaçao in 1973 assisted in the formation of crafts foundations on all of the islands except St. Maarten which has a reverse employment problem — not enough people to fill jobs in the burgeoning tourist industry.

Foundations

The undertaking became a joint project of government and the United Nations Development Programme. Handcraft and small enterprise experts from the International Labour Office, the UN executing agency, were brought in and craft foundations established with their own managers, presidents and board members. Coordination of the project is under the direction of the government's Department for Development Cooperation in Curaçao. The EEC is rendering valuable assistance to the project in the form of micro project participation in founda-

tion programmes in St. Eustatius and Saba.

The craft foundations now employ over 200 persons in crafts training and development and the craft products which result from this work are for sale throughout the Netherlands Antilles. Over 400 persons have passed through the training programme since it began.

Statia

In St. Eustatius, the decision was taken to combine the crafts of woodcarving with a small enterprise of cabinet making and carpentry using a certain percentage of local wood for carving and imported lumber for cabinet making. An ILO expert in carving and furniture design from West Germany, Mr Heinz Hinz, arrived and with the help of local artisans a work-

shop was constructed in August 1976. By mid-September, there were 13 young men in training.

Modest

Since that time, the Golden Rock Artisan Foundation has established itself as a modest but ongoing operation and while woodcarving activities continue, the emphasis is now on furniture making for hotels, schools and other institutions in St. Maarten and other Caribbean islands. Recently, the foundation received an order for 70,000 guilders to supply most of the furnishings for a new hospital in St. Eustatius. In effect, what commenced as a crafts project has now grown into a viable and much needed small enterprise.

Shop

In addition to the woodworking shop, the Golden Rock Artisan Foundation maintains a well-stocked crafts centre where articles from the other Netherlands Antilles are sold. These include excellent black coral and silver jewelry from Bonaire, ceramics from Aruba and Curaçao, hand-printed fabrics from Saba and Aruba, drawn lace embroidery from Saba, leatherwork and tortoise shell items from Bonaire and traditional hand-sewn dolls from Curaçao.

Saba

Some of the spirit of continuity which has kept Saba inhabited

St. Eustatius.



photo: F. Mc.Manus



Saban embroidery.

throughout the centuries is reflected in the old Saban handcraft of drawn lace embroidery. Many housewives in Saba today still practice this old handcraft as a means of earning extra household money.

Painstaking

Drawn lace embroidery is a very old form and its origins, which are European, are unclear. From a piece of cloth, individual threads are drawn, still attached to the cloth, to form an opening and the basis for a pattern of design. These drawn-out areas are then worked upon with the introduction of other threads to bind the design into the open area. It is delicate and painstaking work requiring patience and skill. The result is a beautiful and intricate lace-like open area in the cloth to form an integral border, centerpiece or other effect.

Making this fine embroidery is very close work and most young women do not want to bother with it, finding the monetary return insufficient for such time-consuming and precise effort. Most of the older women doing drawn lace embroidery live in the villages of Windwardside and Hell's Gate. The quantity of work produced is not great because the embroidery making is usually combined with household duties of cooking and minding children.

Silk Screen

In the past, drawn lace embroidery

often produced larger pieces in the form of tablecloths, curtains, drapes, etc. Today, these larger and more expensive items are no longer in demand and the intricate patterns of drawn lace are being used in a more decorative manner on various items of women's and household ware such as shawls, skirts, blouses, handbags, handkerchiefs, napkins and other cloths.

But drawn lace designs are also finding their way into a modern-day handcraft which has become the principal craft in Saba: the art of silk screen printing on fabric. Saba Prints are gradually earning a reputation and finding a ready market in a number of Caribbean neighbors in the British and American Virgin Islands which have a larger influx of tourists.

When experts of the International Labour Office were investigating which form of handcrafts would best suit Saba, the presence of a relatively large number of excellent seamstresses on the island was the determining factor in the introduction of silk screen fabric printing.

Designs

In 1974, an ILO expert was sent to Saba to train craftsmen and set up a silk screen printing operation. The initial designs for printed fabrics which are sewn into dresses, skirts, shorts, blouses, bags and other items of interest to tourists, were taken from nature from the

island's plants and flowers and the sea. These were in addition to the ubiquitous T-shirts which have bloomed everywhere and their popularity shows no signs of diminishing.

Now, Saba Prints are moving into another field, that of bulk printed fabric yardage which is finding markets outside of the immediate area as Saba designs are becoming more artistic and sophisticated. These include motifs from fragments of old pottery and other 17th and 18th century objects being found on Saba and its neighbor, the islands of St. Eustatius.

Future

To assist in the continued development of the crafts industry in Saba, the EEC is funding expansion of silk screen printing facilities in the form of a new building to house a 23 meter printing table and a modern fabric drying machine as one of its micro projects in the area.

Built on the tradition of craftsmanship which produced the exquisite drawn lace as well as sturdy sailing vessels, Saba Prints have a bright future in the export market — limited quantities of superior printed fabrics based on quality design and reproduction. ■

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WILLEMSTAD: Seated at her potter's wheel in the open doorway of her workshop at the new crafts market, the young woman kneads clay into many shapes and sizes so her customers can actually see how pottery is made. Soon, she will have her own kiln, or oven, behind her workshop where she can fire, or bake, the clay into hard ceramics.

"I would like to see this crafts market truly become a centre for all artists and craftsmen of Curaçao," says Milva Kastaneer, an attractive Curazolena who has the courage and determination to open her own ceramics workshop in the old meat market in Punda.

This area on the Sha Capriles Kade is the new Curaçao Crafts Market which has recently been renovated at considerable expense by the Island Government and which occupies the site of the oude Vlees Hallen or Marshe Bieu and provides space for a number of shops for craftsmen. A woodcarving shop operated by Edmund Cijntje has also opened and a goldsmith specializing in filagree work is expected to start his own shop here soon.

The Curaçao Crafts Market is a project of the Island Government. The purpose of the project is to help establish more local craftsmen and artisans and thereby generate more local employment and income.

Milva agrees that many good craftsmen can be developed as a result of the programmes being developed by the Department of Development Cooperation (Ontwikkelings-samenwerking). This Department works in co-ordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Labour Office (ILO), which has a number of experts working in crafts training throughout

the islands. It is one of the many projects being undertaken by the Department to increase employment opportunities.

"I am disappointed we do not see more artists and painters here in this centre. I would like to see an art gallery in the crafts market where the work of local painters, sculptors and artisans can be seen and sold," says Miss Kastaneer.

"Where are the painters and artists of this city? They should realize that this crafts market, created by the government, can become a centre for all the contemporary arts of Curaçao and the Netherlands Antilles. I will offer some space in my shop to local painters to display and sell their work if they will come forward and contact me," the young woman continued.

Milva is a good businesswoman. She displays and sells the work of other leading Curaçao pottery and ceramic makers such as Erwin Pietersz, Franklin Djaoen, Ingrid Jamanika, Migarda Melford and Rocky Sparing. There is also the unusual work of Carol Perret-Gentil who paints on clay after it has been fired, or hardened. Milva received her training in ceramics at Co-op Ceramics Suffisant in Curaçao.

She was born in Sante-lena and attended Maria Visitatie College in Otrabanda. She says there is an artistic strain in her family. Her father, Victor, plays the guitar and her mother, Katerina, sews and crochets. Two of her older brothers, Windert and Erwin, are musicians and Erwin is the leader of the popular band, Porfin. When the family of eight children gathers at home, Milva plays the maracas. ■

photo F. Mc.Manus



MILVA KASTANEER: Young Curaçao ceramics maker who has established her own workshop in the new Curaçao Crafts Market in Punda.



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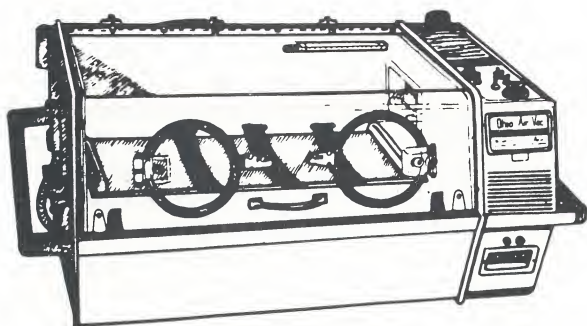
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INTERVIEW

"The question is: how does one further the cause of emancipation? Most of our organised women movements are still relatively selective. They are as yet not representative of the grassroot level. There is an imminent danger of superficial theorizing, which may lead to wrong conclusions and as a result to ill-fated action. Some sound sociological research has to be undertaken. It is inexcusable not to consider the available facts before jumping to conclusions".

Steve Bennet (28) speaks hesitatingly. Experience has taught her that no pronouncements should be made before the field has been thoroughly explored. Once investigating a high degree of absenteeism among workers in a Dutch factory, she found the accepted explanation, which had prevailed for years and led to all sorts of fruitless measures, to be all wrong. Not the shift system was to be blamed, but the low level of schooling. Those with little training simply could not cope psychologically and dropped out. Likewise she feels the need for a proper research into the position of women today in Curaçao's society. Three years ago while in Holland she wrote a paper on "the position of the women in the Caribbean". She then learned how little study has been done in this field with regard to Curaçao. Steve is convinced about the need for sound scientific groundwork to

undergird the emancipation movement.

Variations

Such a detailed study is necessary because the position of the Caribbean woman individually differs widely, depending on what kind of relationship she has to her male partner, which in turn depends largely on the class she belongs to. The leading classes still fulfill a model role. Their more stable mar-

riage situation creates aspirations among the lower classes. Steve would further like to investigate the present functioning of the virginity-complex as well as of the virility complex, so typical of the upper classes in the Caribbean and on Curaçao. She doubts whether foreign cultural influences, notably from the USA, have brought about any fundamental change. Although sexual relationships between young people before marriage have become quite common, Steve believes that girls are still looked upon as potential virgins. And men are still allowed a large measure of freedom both before and in their marriages. Studies done in the past show that the lower classes while adopting these values, because of economic reasons were usually not able to maintain the same marriage arrangements. This resulted in a variety of man-woman relationships, which did not leave much room for the emancipation of the woman. Steve wonders whether the picture has changed during the past decennia.

The influence of the Roman Catholic Church has decreased and women are no longer or at least far less willing to make sacrifices. But no data are available. All theories are guesswork.

Negative

Steve notes that in all the different relationships the productive ▶

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role of the woman is still very predominant. This limits her social scope considerably. Economic in-dependency is therefore most important. Being able to take care of basic needs herself, the woman can attend to the often neglected psychological needs of respect and self-esteem.

The investigation hoped for should also investigate why women tend to project their humiliating situation in the way they educate their children. Too often boys are doomed to become weaklings because of the large measure of freedom they are allowed. The mother-daughter relationship is often tainted by a conflict of values. While mother still applies the old virginity-ideal, the young girl is confronted with very different values in society.

Steve is also worried about the lack of solidarity among women.

If a man leaves a woman for another one, the blame is rarely put on the man but usually on the other woman. This allows the man to maintain his dominating position.

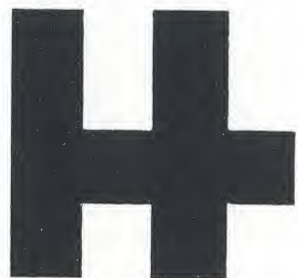
Education

The position of the woman, according to Steve, cannot be studied adequately without taking into account the total structure of present day society. She mentions the phenomenon of the "green widow". A very high percentage of girls now visit highschool or other secondary educational institutes. They are prepared for a place in the production process, but usually end up being mothers and because of that barred from working. The ensuing frustration has earned them the name of green widows. In a developing society like the Antilles there is

still too little opportunity for married women (or mothers) to give full scope to their gifts (see LAW).

The main battlefields, Steve is convinced, are those of the humiliating sex-roles and unequal opportunity. This will involve education and action. Both presuppose preliminary research. In the developed countries one finds a tradition of scientific investigation because of the presence since long of universities. We lack such a structure. At least until recently. Most research has been partial and incidental. What we need is continuity in this respect. Now we are left with more questions than answers.

Steve Bennet studied sociology at the University of Groningen, Holland and majored in medical-sociology. She is presently employed by the department of public health. ■



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Antillean Themes

by Wim Rutgers

In the last decades it has become customary to indicate literature produced on any of the islands in the Caribbean and in bordering countries like Guyana, Surinam and French Guiana with the terms West Indian, Caribbean or Antillean. In doing so the users evidently want to distinguish the literature in question from European such as English, French and Dutch literatures.

As early as 1958 G. R. Goulthard proceeded from this Caribbean unity, as appears from his study *Raza y Color en la Literatura Antillana*, which appeared in 1962 in English under the title *Race and Colour in Caribbean Literature*, although he is of opinion that "Caribbean culture as a whole has had a cultural development very similar to that of continental Latin America" (p.4). A comparison that comes naturally, because his main point of interest was with the writings in Spanish. English authors often use the term West Indian when they specifically want to refer to the English speaking area.

Kenneth Ramchand wrote *The West Indian Novel and its Background* (1970) and *An introduction to the Study of West Indian Literature* (1976). In 1979 there is *West Indian Literature*, edited by Bruce King. Others on the other hand use the term Caribbean, for example Michael Gilkes for his study *Wilson Harris and the Caribbean Novel* (1975). O. R. Dathrone for his anthology *Caribbean Narrative* (1966) and more recently Selwyn R. Cudhoe: *Resistance and Caribbean Literature* (1980). The anthology *Tim Tim Bois sec* published in 1980 by Maryse Condé, who is from Guadeloupe, was given the subtitle "Anthology of Caribbean Literature in French".

Unity

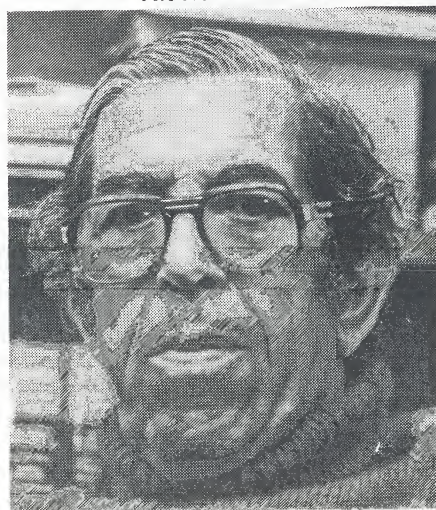
In the cultural mosaics of Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles Hugo Pos and Cola Debrot, speaking respectively of Surinamese letters and Antillean literature, maintain national instead of regional categories.

According to Bruce King this form of indication was formerly also used for the English speaking territories, when they would sooner speak of Jamaican or Guyanese literature than of

West Indian literature. But, he adds, he would still rather speak in a broader concept, if only for practical reasons, because "no one country has yet had a sufficient number of major authors to be able to speak of a developed literature of its own" (p.8). A remark that we should take to heart, considering how last year during Festantil mention was made of Saban, Bonairean or Aruban literature, and how just the other day Frans Booi set the distinctive Bonairean culture off against that of Curaçao in the *Amigoe* of 4-4-81. Let us rather look towards what unites and not what divides!

In the introduction to his *Anthology D. R. Dathorne* writes: "Andres Salkey once said to me that there was no such thing as West Indian literature; Denis Williams affirmed that it is a province of English letters. They would argue that it has still to attain a certain definite identity before it can acquire nationality" (p.2), a vision also defended by Albert Helman with regard to Surinamese literature in the *Sticusa Journal* of 31 December 1974 and Max

Albert Helman.



Nord in *Our Heritage* 1/1981, p.103/5, who asked himself "if there really exists a thing called Surinamese literature".

In his opinion this cannot be judged until (much) later... Bruce King too says "West Indian is one of the many new English literatures...". But in general one nowadays does speak of Caribbean literature as a separate category. Many more could be added to the examples given above. In February 1981 for example Frank Martinus Arion held a lecture on Caribbean literature at the occasion of the opening of the Walter Rodney book-store in Amsterdam. According to the *Amigoe* of 27 February he voiced his objections that in three quarters of an hour he had to speak about the entire Caribbean literature, an impossible task naturally, but he had no objections against the term as such. He accepts this Caribbean unity as legitimate, as it can be worked with. The various authors find justification for such a designation in the characteristics that the literatures of the different islands have in common.

Correlates

Kenneth Ramchand first of all bases this on the authors when he says that Caribbean literature "... is written by people who were born or who grew up in the West Indies..." (p.3). George Lamming does the same in *The pleasures of Exile* with the definition: "The West Indian novel, by which I mean the novel written by the West Indian, about the West Indian reality..." (p.68) Ramchand also says that the works "usually have a West Indian setting and contain fictional characters and situations whose social correlates are immediately recognizable as West Indian" (p.3).

Authors, personalities, space and thematic evidently have to be West Indian, if it is to be considered Caribbean literature. One sometimes wonders whether an author like V.S. Naipaul, who left Trinidad at the age of eighteen and never returned can still be considered as part of Caribbean literature, all the more so since the "setting" of his work often is not Caribbean anymore. The *Encyclopedia of Surinam* states about Corly Verlooghen that because of his stay abroad he has no influence anymore on literary events in Surinam: he does not belong. To what degree can Boeli van Leeuwen: *A father, a son*, if seen in this light, be considered as belonging to Antillean literature?

To demonstrate the unity of Caribbean literature the common history is all too ►

often called upon: the original Indian inhabitants, who were either pacified or exterminated by European colonists, slavery from Africa, emancipation, indenture labour and finally independence. Or in the words of G. R. Goulthard: "The countries of the Caribbean possess a high degree of historical homogeneity – colonisation by European countries, extinction of the aboriginal peoples, importation of negroes as slaves from Africa to replace the extinct indians as a work force, cultivation of sugar and coffee, and finally independence or semi-independence." (p.5).

When Ramon Todd Dandré held his lectures on Caribbean literature in 1980, he also pointed out the common history, resulting in cultural homogeneity, which he proved with a few examples.

This characteristic also existst for the entire "plantation America", that is the islands of the Caribbean area, including Guyana, Surinam and French Guiana, Selwyn R. Cudjoe goes very deeply into this historical development. In Part I of his study *Resistance and Caribbean Literature* he describes the resistance of indians and negroes, but also after emancipation. He even makes it the leading theme of his work, trying in that way to demonstrate the unity of the region. Ursy M. Lichtveld and Jan Verhoeve also deal with the triple resistance of indians, slaves and maroons in the historical reading-book *Surinam: Mirror of the Fatherland merchants*. Nor did this resistance leave the Netherlands Antilles untouched. The histories of the different islands and countries in the Caribbean in broad lines and to a high degree run parallel.



Bea Vianen.

Development

As a consequence the history of literature as part of the larger whole called cultural history also shows a parallel development and unity.

Unfortunately it begins with a blank page. Kenneth Ramchand gives Part I of his study the title "Life without fiction" and says: "The white creoles built no schools, libraries or museums. They created no works of art. They constructed no roads or bridges. They left no enduring monuments." (p.33).

In *We slaves of Surinam* Anton de Kom in 1934 asks the Dutch colonial rulers the painful question: "if it so happens that slavery is the basis of a culture, what temples have you then built in Surinam, what poems have you written, what elevated thoughts have been passed on to posterity?"

Sbrinivasi and Frank Martinus Arion.



Isn't it true that you would stand embarrassed, if you had to erect just one statue in Surinam for Dutchmen who became famous through deeds of the spirit? (p.41). And 35 years later in the introduction of his magazine *Ruku* Frank Martinus Arion writes: "I want to be unpleasant on purpose and remark that in the threehundred years that the Dutch have been in the Antilles, precious little art has been produced by them". The colonists came to the Caribbean to obtain things and not to bring anything; to go back as soon as possible, not to stay.

But those who were forced to stay, the slaves, did bring along from Africa their culture that was orally handed down and knew how to keep it alive. In her anthology *Maryse Condé* strongly stresses these oral traditional tales, just like Cola Debrot did in his introduction to the Netherlands Antillean literature and Eva Essed for the Surinamese. Condé sees the imitation of the European mother country as the next development phase, after which the regionalism so detested by her – denigratingly called hammock literature – followed. She agitated against this with: "Hammock literature. Sugar and vanilla literature. Literary tourism. Come on, real poetry is to be found elsewhere. Far from rhymes, complaints, tradewinds and parrots. Bamboo, we declare death to the sweetcake literature. And off with you hibiscus, almond cake and bougainvilias" (p.19). As opposed to this exotism *Maryse Condé* mentions the interest in Africa, the own Antillean being and the choice of language as more important themes.

In the chapter "The national culture" of his *The damned of the Earth* Franz Fanon distinguishes three phases of development for Third World literature: After assimilation of the white culture comes a time of confusion because the first phase is rejected, whereas one still has not found what will replace it. One goes back to one's own past. Not until the third phase do we find the time of struggle, in which literature becomes the "alarm clock" for the population. In 1974 Albert Helman distinguished five phases: one or two will attain a place in the literature of the mother country; these pioneers are imitated in their milieu of origin, which leads to "heimat literature" with a lot of "couleur locale"; a development after the second phase is that of the regional novels, also written in the vernacular; protest literature with a sense for the local problematic, in which it is still not possible to keep a certain distance; humour and self-ridicule, relativation of the own situation, which may lead to serious ▶



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discussions pro and con; the own development is taken up in the general international literary evolution. According to him this whole process will take generations. If I had to make a small list of this process for Surinam it would look like this: Helman, Ooft, Mungroo, Verlooghen, Dobru, Shrinivasi, Cairo, Vianen, Ferrier. But I'll leave it to the reader to place them in a better order and to make a list for the Netherlands Antilles themselves . . .

Selwyn R. Cudjoe finally sees a development in six phases. In classicism one glorifies one's own history and demands an own place beside the coloniser; revolutionary romanticism contains sharp protests against colonial exploitation and an attack on western values; realism describes and analyses colonial abuses, which in the phase of socio-psychological realism is further internalized as a conflict between the individual and the colonial, alienating society. Magical realism advocates more what is one's own and is less a form of protest. In the last phase, critical realism, reality is studied, analysed and accepted critically as the reality of Caribbean man, who has to build his own personal integrity. It is clear that

the various researchers paint a development which in broad lines runs parallel.

Form and contents

In his study Bruce King sums up a large number of themes which different parts of the Caribbean have in common as a result of this development: "Consequently West Indian literature has been concerned with such contrasts as the poor and middle class; history and the present; the desire for and suspicion of education; dispossession and freedom; racial difference and creolisation; metropolitan and regional culture; local pride and embarrassment. Common themes include the search for "roots" and for identity, social and historical injustices, feelings of imprisonment, the desire for order, the discovery of traditions or a folk culture, and the creation of a new society." (p.7.) Many of these characteristics are also found in the works of other authors. Kenneth Ramchand mentions "... analysis and interpretation of (...) society's ills, including the social and economic deprivation of the majority; the pervasive consciousness of race and colour; the cynicism and uncertainty of the native

bourgeoisie in power after independence; the lack of a history to be proud of; and the absence of traditional or settled values." (p.4).

Bruce King also defends an own style: "the various period styles of West Indian literature have been modifications of a prevailing metropolitan and international . . ." (p.7). Goulthard on the other hand was of opinion that "Although much has been written about a style of *négritude*, apart from its content and attitudes, with the exception of Césaire himself, it is difficult to find any style or manner in the French West Indian writers which could be described as distinctively African or un-European." (p.67).

The writer in the Caribbean has the "choice" to use either the European standard language, a Caribbean modification thereof or still another one.

Thus the Netherlands Antillean author is in the situation in which he can "choose" among Papiamentu, Dutch, English and Spanish.

According to Debrot a nearly unique situation in the world. The Surinamese author "chooses" among Dutch, Sranan Tongo, Hindustani or Surinamese-Dutch. ▶

The French and English authors choose among the standard language and a creolised form of that language, or they vary dependant upon the person they allow to speak. What on the one hand is a limitation (the small size of the language territory for example), on the other hand offers unprecedented stylistic possibilities. Jules de Palm calls the polyglotism the most distinctive feature of the literature of the A.B.C.-islands. Besides that it happens regularly that one and the same author publishes in two languages. Authors like Debrot, Marugg, Frank Martinus Arion who write mostly in Dutch, in addition use Papiamentu; Lauffer and René de Rooy on the other hand besides Papiamentu also use Dutch. Luis Daal writes in Papiamentu and Spanish etc. Something like that is also the case in Surinam.

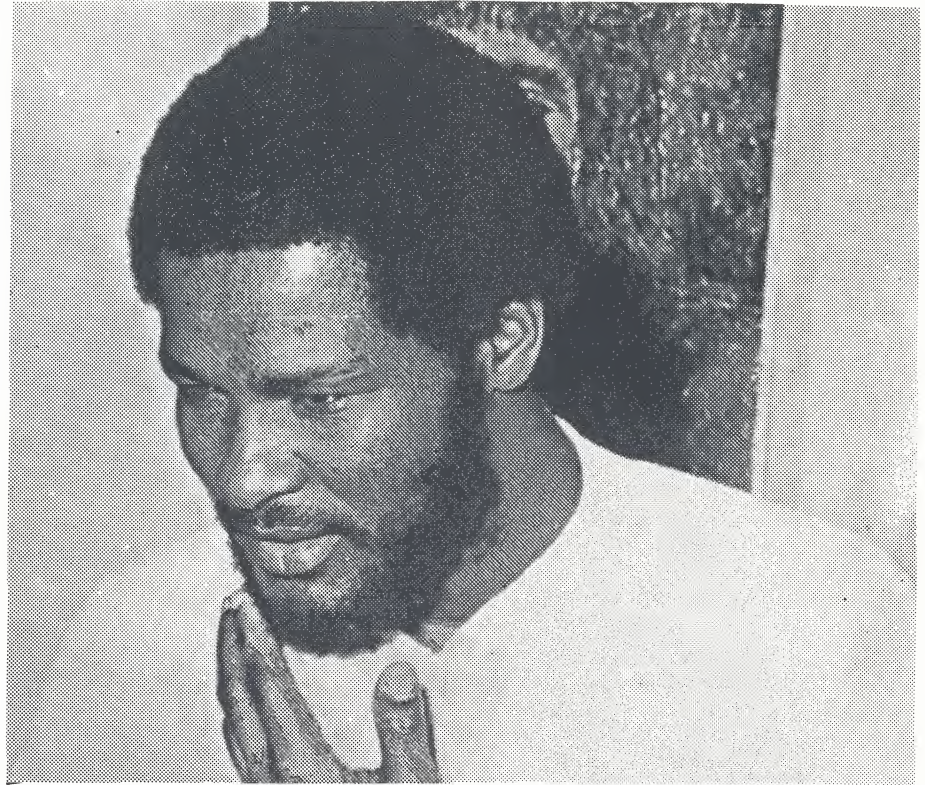
Helman, Slory, Cairo write in Dutch and Sranan Tongo or Surinamese Dutch. Shrinivasi in addition used Hindustani. Only of Boeli van Leeuwen and Bia Vianan I don't know of other publications than those in Dutch.

In *The West Indian novel and its background* Ramchand mentions a great number of English examples in the chapter "The language of the Master?". During the congress of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics held in Aruba last year, Stephen Bernhardt and Jean D'Costa held lectures on the same problematic: on "Dialect and Style Shifting in the fiction of Samuel Selvon" and "The West Indian Novelist and Language: A Search for a Literary Medium", respectively.

Conclusion

Although there are differences in the approach still everyone postulates the unity of the area. Michael Gilkes gives as the most important characteristic the psychic integrity. Selwyn R. Cudjoe sees the unity in "Resistance", which is understandable from his Marxist political belief, but in the end reaches an almost identical point of view: "Indeed, it may be argued that the "democratic sentiment" in Caribbean literature lays the basis for a particular Caribbean humanism (. . .) that glorifies the moral integrity of the little man, his firm determination and human dignity." (p.274).

Goulthard, Ramchand and Bruce King in their studies give a considerable number of common themes. Maryse Condé concludes: "Stuck as it is between the African heritage and writers' techniques and concepts from Europe, Antillean literature has nevertheless



Edgar Cairo.

succeeded in showing an own face. Little by little it has broken loose from exotism and has placed the **human being, the Antillean human being** in the center of its attention." (p.44/5).

While the other so much more extensive literatures are often studied from a

Caribbean perspective, we see on the contrary for the Netherlands Antilles and especially for Surinam a strongly isolated, national approach. In the *Cultural Mosaic of Surinam* Hugo Pos greatly stresses the national character of "a proper Surinamese literature" in ►

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the chapter "Authors and readers". For our small scale literature this holds the great danger that it will become still more isolated.

Edward Braithwaite, an author and lecturer in Jamaica, said in an interview that he was not able to mention any Antillean authors. In Dudgeon's study of 1980 it appears that he still believes that Surinam is a Dutch colony. (p.55). And yet the others do have attention for us. Barbara Howes includes in her anthology *From the green Antilles* a Dutch section of nearly sixty pages; in the past we have also been represented at Carifesta. But as to the other side of the medal, how great is our interest in the "others".

A study of our own literature in the framework of the Caribbean is an absolute must. As early as the sixties Cola Debrot announced this study, but as far as I know, there has never been any publications in this respect. Jos de Roo: *Antillean Literary Log-book* with his last chapter "Caribbean lines in Antillean literature" is an important start, likewise Ramon Todd Dandaré's lectures in 1980: *A look at Caribbean literature in its historical framework*.

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remark that the study of Caribbean literature in education is not being

dealt with systematically anywhere, not even at the University of the West Indies. In the event of cultural and educational re-orientation an important place will have to be set apart in our community for the whole of Caribbean literature. ■

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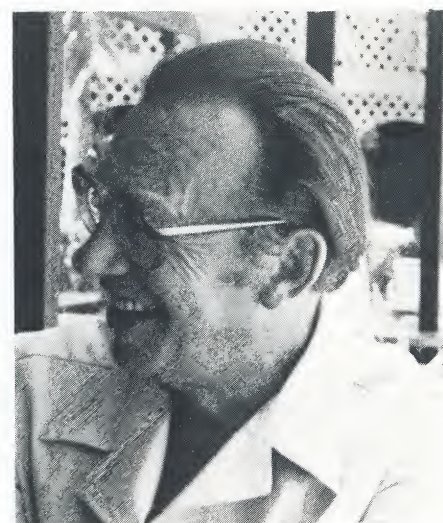


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Wine after all is chosen by the palate

by Han Folkertsma



As with each passing day wine is assuring itself more and more of a regular place on the table – to be taken just for the fun of it, for no particular reason – people tend to make too much of a fuss about this product of nature. So much so that a conversation between wine connoisseurs, or those who think they are, will sooner scare off the listener than induce him to go on exploring the thrilling world of wine. Actually each conversation about wine should always end with the conclusion “and now all wisdom aside, drink only what you like”.

This truth in fact is the basis for all wine enjoyment. Even if nearly sacred laws, ordering that white wine should only be drunk with fish, rosé with poultry and red with beef, are broken. Not that no clear exceptions are ever made on this rule, even by acknow-

ledged palates. And not only because this rigid rule is not an absolute truth, but especially because human taste fortunately is a very personal thing. If only for that reason one should abstain from laying down such principles that will sooner drive away the uninformed than lure them into becoming lovers of wine.


A famous restaurant in the French Champagne region (Le Roi de Champagne) has the habit of pouring champagne with all dishes, consequently also with a tournedos and with snails. Only if a customer insists on deviating from this home-rule, will they comply. In this way a number of champagnes – including the expensive red one – are run through the taste gamut and, if asked, the guest will have to admit wholeheartedly that each combination was an extremely happy one. With the above a tradition of eternal pacts between certain foods and specific wines is being done away with. What's more those pacts are not all that eternal, for we are taught by history that our early forebears had a much smaller assortment of wines at their disposal and so were obliged to drink sweet Spanish and German wines with well-seasoned chunks of game. A remnant of this can still be found in the Hautes Sauternes, the noble putrefaction wines of the Bordeaux, which have a highly sweet (but delicious and very individual) aftertaste, but which by no one

other than the bestknown producers (Château d'Yquem) themselves are recommended as a perfect partner for a . . . pâté.

If you happen to be the felicitous owner of an Yquem or any other great Sauternes, give it a try as a desert wine with a good pâté. It will prove a surprising combination and also that absolute truths about white, red, sweet and dry, in reality do not exist, but that your tongue and palate know how to make the choice themselves.

Barbarism

Not counting the barbarism of some American bar visitors who drop ice cubes into a glass of wine ▶




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or pur a splendid cognac into a cola, not to mention even worse assaults on wine and its derivatives, there are no stringent rules for you and your taste. Which does not detract from the fact that many amongst us would not think of relishing a piece of venison or a wild boar chop without a Château-neuf. I count myself among the latter, but at the same time I can very well understand a table companion's preference for a simple glass of beer.

So don't be afraid of "that difficult wine" and above all allow your own taste preference to decide. It may very well be possible that different moments (like the little terrace in the sun as opposed to a bristling wood-fire in a mountain hut) create different demands. It would be a good thing for the person who discovers these differences in preference in himself to keep a small stock of wine in his house, which he can have recourse to according to situation and mood, but also considering the taste of the meal.

As to the latter, a restaurant-

owner who would rather reverse the order of things and allow the wine to be chosen first and the food afterwards, instead of the other way around as is customary, would have no end of success.

However, in order to be able to choose from the medley of names and labels, not counting your general preference for kind, colour or nature, it is convenient to know your way around in the language of the labels, as they are the showcases for the contents.

And also to engrave on your mind (or on a crib) a number of good and less good wines, so that after a little self-consultation or more agreeably via a table conversation you will at any rate be able to make your choice. The prices nowadays are after all not that modest anymore that a bad buy can be put aside with a shrug of the shoulders.

Well then: for French wines the term Appellation Controlée (controlled naming of origin) is already a good guarantee that you did not buy too big a pig in the poke. You may be assured of a minimum alcohol content, a specific region of origin (Bordeaux, Bourgogne, Rhône, the Provence etc.) and of a specific variety of grapes or a mixture of various prescribed races.

The preparation too is regulated, while finally, to safeguard the quality, a maximum production per hectare is guaranteed.

After the AC comes the VDQS (Vins Delimités de Qualité Supérieure), which must also meet certain standards (less heavy than for the AC). Through a recent change in law these wines (which must also be subjected to thorough final tasting) have been given the new name "vins de table". Among them we find the Vins de pays, ordinary fast wines for every day.

Towering over the AC-wines are the Cru's, a story in itself, and finally at the very top the Grands Cru's.

In addition we sometimes see on French labels the term "Mise en bouteille au Château" or "en domaine". It no doubt gives extra assurance about the legitimacy of the wine, but does not say anything about the manner of bottling and as large importers for example are sometimes better equipped for bottling than small château owners, this "mise" is not a sound certificate for reliability.

The term "supérieure" you may as well forget about. It is true that these wines possess something more than their lowest kind, but they still remain the next to simplest of wines.

And finally there are a number of slogans to be found on the labels having no meaning at all and simply meant for decoration (or to mislead). To name a few: Grande Réserve, Vin Sélectioné, VSR, Grand Vin, Vin du Patron, Grand Vin Exceptionnel and a whole list of fanciful names given without rhyme or reason.

One should be just as careful with the so-called numbered bottles, which most of the time is nothing more than an extra sales trick and for the rest irrelevant. After all only the labels are numbered!

Next time more on the way to recognize other than French labels. ■

Han Folkertsma

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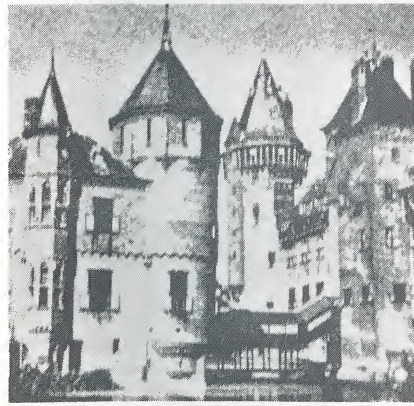
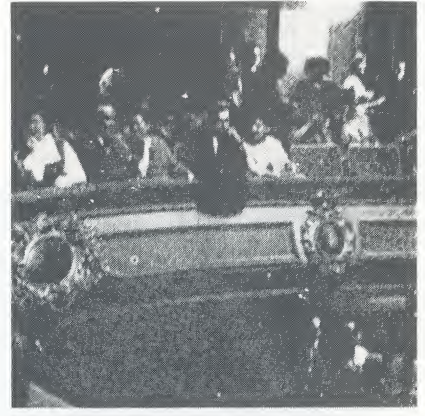
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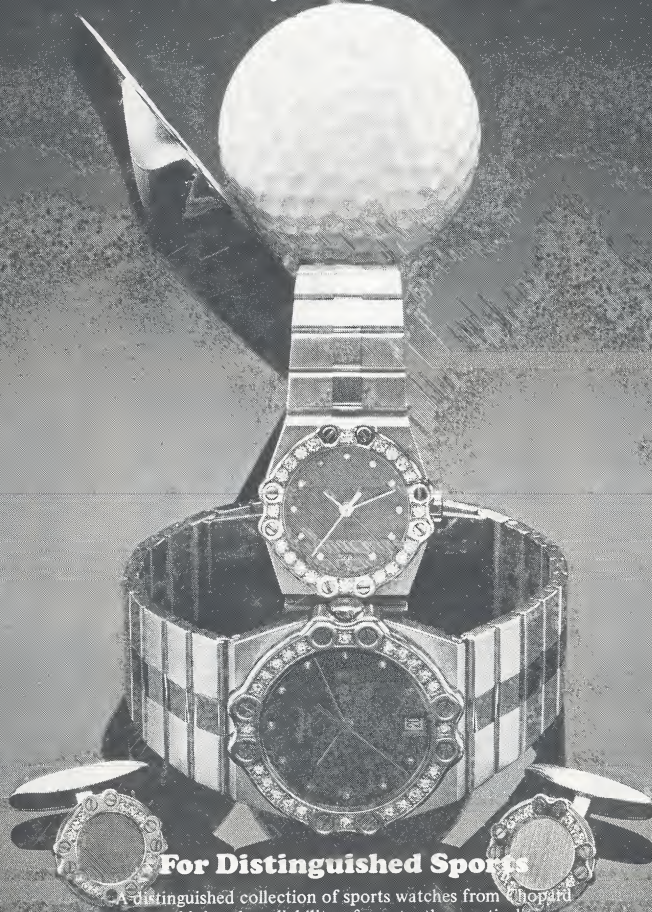
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